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International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People



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

The programme commenced with the Welcoming Remarks by YBhg. Datuk Salman Ahmad, the Director General of IDFR, who expressed that IDFR is honored to be the host of the important event. Datuk Salman then emphasised on the need for the younger generation in Malaysia to be aware of the Palestinians' plight and to provide meaningful support and aid to the people.

In his keynote address, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, YB Dato' Sri Reezal Merican Naina Merican congratulated the State of Palestine on the historic adoption of Resolution 69/320, which saw the flag of the State of Palestine being raised at the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September 2015. Further, Dato' Sri Reezal spoke of education as the foundation of society, and stated that "to invest in education is to invest in peace and stability". In support of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) which is working on improving the education environment in Gaza, Malaysia contributed an additional USD100, 000 financial support on top of its annual commitment of USD25, 000. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also provides assistance to Palestinians through NGOs such as CAKNA Palestine as part of its efforts in capacity building through training and education.

The keynote address was followed by a short video presentation on Palestine and an experience sharing session with Palestinian students currently pursuing their education in Malaysia. Mr. Zamshari Shaharan of Wisma Putra moderated the session which comprised of three Palestinian students – Mr. Mahmoud F.R. Abumarzouq, pursuing a Masters in Orthopedic Surgery at Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM); Mr. Ali Hisyam Abu Safia, pursuing a Masters in Science (Medical Education) in USM; and Mr. Hussein S.A. Abu Marzouq, pursuing a Diploma in Business Studies from Darulnaim College of Technology – and a representative from the Embassy of the State of Palestine in Kuala Lumpur, Dr. Ahmed Metani.

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

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



Reported by:

Sarah Zahirah Ruhama Centre for Political Studies and Economic Diplomacy



The 10th Pok Rafeah Public Lecture: Goodbye Miracle Eight

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) organised the 10th Pok Rafeah Public Lecture titled Goodbye Miracle Eigh' by one of its Distinguished Professors in International Studies, Prof. Dr. Jan Nederveen Pieterse on 24 November 2015. Prof. Dr. Pieterse is an author and editor of 21 books, and specialises in globalisation, development studies and cultural studies, with a current focus on 21st century globalisation. The public lecture is the final of a two-part series which began with the first lecture by Prof. Dr. Pieterse on 24 November 2014. The welcoming remark was delivered by rof. Datuk Dr. Noor Azlan Ghazali, Vice Chancellor of UKM and the opening address was delivered by YAM Tunku Zain Al-Abidin Ibni Tuanku Muhriz, President of the Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS).

Miracle Eight is a term coined by the World Bank in the 1990s for eight high-performing Asian countries (South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines and Singapore) that were marked to achieve developed country status with relatively egalitarian economies and consolidated democracies. While South Korea and Taiwan have achieved advanced industrialisation, low GINI indices and democratisation, the realities in South East Asia have not quite met the expectations. Steady growth had been observed in quantity rather than quality, which Prof. Dr. Pieterse argued is leading to a cul de sac. As the manufacturing sector becomes increasingly competitive worldwide, options for manufacturing export-led growth and industrial upgrading have significantly narrowed for many developing countries. Prof. Dr. Pieterse attributed the ineffective utilisation of industrial development opportunities in Southeast Asia to several factors. The nature of political institutions in the region is regarded as one of the internal hurdles that need to be overcome. Developments in Southeast Asia are also influenced by the increasing China-centric value networks (bamboo capitalism) in East Asia, as observed by estimated \$2 trillions worth of investments made by China both regionally and globally.

Prof. Dr. Pieterse regarded the young population of Southeast Asia as a major asset to the region, complemented with a structural advantage of geographical proximity to rising China and enhanced by

China's regional infrastructure investments. Multiculturalism is Malaysia's major positive asset as it enables Malaysia to have strong connections to other regions, such as links to the Middle East and West Asia through Islam, links to China and Chinese diasporas in the region, and similarly links to India. These cultural affinities and social capital give Malaysia a wider radius and greater economic potential and appeal than most Southeast Asia countries in relation to tourism, markets, SMEs, finance and investment. To seize the opportunities of the 21st century and achieve sustainable development, Prof. Dr. Pieterse called for adjustment needs to existing institutions, and recommended power sharing to enhance social trust and political stability as well as contribute to wider external relations.

Reported by: Sarah Ruhama Centre for Political Studies and Economic Diplomacy MTCP: Diplomatic Training Course for ASEAN Junior Diplomats 2015



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

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

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

In addition, the young diplomats were introduced to Malaysia's state level governance through a study visit to Perak. The visit included briefings from the Office of State Secretary of Perak, and an industrial

visit to Henkel Malaysia. These modules further enhanced their understandings in the workings of state government, as well as the important partnership between the industry and the state.

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



Reported By: Ms. Sarah Zahirah Ruhama Centre for Political Studies and Economic Diplomacy Public Lecture by Ms. Helen Clark : Sustainable Development Goals: Key Considerations for a People-Centred ASEAN



From 25-27 September 2015, world leaders gathered in New York to review the success and remaining challenges of the Millennium Development Goals, and adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the Development Summit of the United Nations General Assembly. The 17 SDGs, which will set the future course of economic and social development over the next 15 years, are aspirational, comprehensive and holistic. They are people-centred and aim to end poverty in all its forms and promote healthy lives and wellbeing for all. They are also planet-sensitive, seeking to drive urgent action to combat climate change and its impact and to conserve and responsibly use oceans and marine resources for sustainable development.

The Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute (ASLI) co-organised a Public Lecture by Ms. Helen Clark, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and; Chair of the United Nations Development Group entitled "Sustainable Development Goals: Key Considerations for a People-Centred ASEAN" On the 19th of October 2015. The event was graced by the Honourable Dato' Sri Reezal Merican Naina Merican, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia.

In his opening remarks Dato Sri' Reezal stressed the importance of establishing a people oriented region and for world leaders to adopt the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. These goals, he said, will help confront the many challenges the region is currently facing; poverty, environmental issues and climate change.

Ms. Clark explained the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) adopted by world leaders during the Development Summit of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015. Ms. Clark further clarified that the goals are bold, ambitious agenda and have been developed in a very inclusive way. To successfully implement these Goals according to her, there will be five specific challenges;

- i) Persistent inequalities and ongoing discrimination;
- ii) Jobs deficits and its implications, particularly the youth;

iii) Rising environmental challenges, including climate change, biodiversity loss, deforestation, air, water and soil pollution;

- iv) Impact of natural disasters; and
- v) Conflict.

Ms. Clark further stressed that the whole of UN development system is committed to working with ASEAN member countries to implement the 2030 agenda through the MAPS approach - Mainstreaming, Accelaration and Policy Support. This approach according to her, seeks to build and facilitate partnerships, improves data and deepens accountability. Ms. Clark also reaffirmed that UNDP will support global and local advocacy around the SDGs and promote broad engagement in implementation and in monitoring progress.

In conclusion Ms. Clark reiterated that despite SDGs big a tall order, it seeks to improve livelihood of mankind especially the hundreds of millions of people who continue to live in extreme poverty, and for the prospects of the one planet which we all depend on.

The lecture received overwhelming response from almost 250 participants of members of the diplomatic corps, senior government officials, academics, think tanks and students.



Reported By: Ms. Eminder Kaur Kawan Singh Centre for Political Studies and Economic Diplomacy DiD 2015: Dinner Talk by His Royal Highness Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin Tuanku Muhriz



On 22 September 2015, IDFR and the participants of the Diploma in Diplomacy 2015 organised a Dinner Talk delivered by His Royal Highness (HRH) Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin Tuanku Muhriz, Founding President of the Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS), Malaysia, on the topic: Democracy in Malaysia and Its Role in Malaysia's Foreign Policy at DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Kuala Lumpur.

Mr. Jesse Quiban, the Project Manager of the event, delivered the welcoming remarks and introduced HRH Tunku Zain Ai-'Abidin. In his remarks, Mr. Jesse Quiban referred to programmes and achievements throughout DiD, as well as some notable speakers who have shared their expertise with the participants.

HRH Tunku Zain Al-Abidin, dubbed as an "intellectual royal", is highly admired by the current Malaysian youth. His presence was the ideal choice in inspiring the participants to rise to the occasion and meet the Country's expectations on the young generation. In his speech, HRH Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin emphasised the importance of reflecting the Country's historical background, national building blocks, and Malaysia's great promises, by the young diplomats today. This would help them to represent Malaysia better in the future.

He also stressed that the settling "Spirit of Merdeka" among Malaysians today should be reverberated by retelling the history to the young generation in schools. He added that this is timely as Malaysia is currently manoeuvring through the complex racial fabric and societal make-up to withstand the internal and external threats of disunity.

At the end of the session, HRH Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin spent his time to personally talk to the participants and share his thoughts on issues raised by them.

Reported by:

Imran Ariff Mohammad Amin CEC Visit from the Foreign Delegations to IDFR



In the month of September, IDFR hosted two foreign delegation visits. The first visit was on 10 September 2015, consisted of 20 students from the University Malaya and the Kwansei Gakuin University, Japan. The delegation was led by Professor Dr. Washio Tomoharu and Mr. Masao Okuno, Director of ASEAN Project.

The purpose of the visit was to enable students from both universities in completing the development of the ASEAN Project which was inaugurated by the School of International Studies, Kwansei Gakuin University, Japan. This visit also aimed to impart the students with new insights on pertinent features and issues with reference to ASEAN which may relate to the socio-economy, regional political systems, and social values of the region.

The session commenced with welcoming remarks by Dato' Hussin Nayan, Director General of IDFR. After a short introduction of IDFR, Mr. Nazarudin Jaafar, Director, High Level Task Force, ASEAN-Malaysia National Secretariat, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia, briefed the students on Malaysia Chairman of ASEAN. After the briefing, the students were brought for IDFR familiarisation tour.

On 15 September 2015, IDFR hosted delegates from the Lembaga Ketahanan Nasional (LEMHANNAS), Indonesia. This is part of their visit to relevant Malaysian Ministries and Agencies including Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Home Affairs, Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency and Institute Strategic and International Studies.

The delegation comprises of 41 participants of Program Pendidikan Regular Angkatan and was led by Dr. Ardi Partadinata, Director of LEMHANNAS. The objective of the visit was mainly to gather information and learn on the roles and functions of each Ministries and Agencies that they visited.

Ms. Hajah Norani Ibrahim, Director of Special Projects, IDFR, gave her welcoming remarks and followed by the address by Dr. Ardi Partadinata. In his address, Dr. Ardi expressed the LEMHANNAS's interest to

learn more on IDFR's courses and programmes. The delegates were also keen on IDFR's stand on regional issues.



Reported by: Azmah Mahmud Management Services Division The Workshop on Public International Law 2015



Public International Law lays the foundations of peace and order on the international plane as it governs relations between independent states and other actors such as international organisations, non-governmental organisations etcetera in their communication with each other. The reach on the subject of Public International Law such as international trade and human rights is pervasive today. Therefore, it is important for government officers especially those involved in the handling of international affairs to acquire knowledge of at least the basics of Public International Law to meet the challenges in discharging their day-to-day responsibilities.

On this basis, the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) as the training arm of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia has conducted the Workshop on Public International Law from 8 to 10 September 2015. The workshop is aimed at introducing participants to the basics and main aspects of Public International Law such as questions of state responsibility, the law of treaties, the law of the sea and issues relating to diplomatic immunity, trade, human rights and environmental protection. This annual Workshop is among IDFR's popular courses and well received by participants from various ministries and government agencies over the years. It has given the participants good opportunity to learn or relearn about the theoretical and practical understanding of Public International Law, gain insights into its application in international legal and diplomatic practice and network with the speakers and among themselves.

The Workshop was attended by 19 participants that comprised government officers at Grade 41 to Jusa C drawn from the lower and high courts of Malaysia, the Attorney General's Chambers, the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), the Malaysian Investment

Development Authority (MIDA), the Royal Malaysian Customs Department and the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA). The certificate of attendance was presented by Mr. Syed Bakri Syed Abdul Rahman, the Deputy Director of Centre for Political Studies and Economic Diplomacy (PSED) on the last day of the course.





Reported by: Lim Hui Chin Centre for Political Studies and Economic Diplomacy (PSED) The New Intake for Master of Social Sciences in Strategy and Diplomacy Session 2015/2016



IDFR welcomed the new intake for Master of Social Sciences in Strategy and Diplomacy Session 2015/2016, a joint programme between IDFR and UKM, which has marked its 16th year collaboration. Eleven students registered on 1 September 2015, and this was followed by the orientation programme until 4 September 2015.

The four-day orientation programme was conducted at IDFR and UKM, and was packed with briefings, visits, and interactive sessions. On the first day, Puan Romaiza Ab Rahman, Director of Competency Enhancement Centre (CEC), IDFR, gave her welcoming remarks and shared some information on IDFR. Later, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kuik Cheng Chwee, UKM's Programme Coordinator and also one of the programme's instructors, took the floor to inform the new students on academic related matters and details of the programme.

During the orientation programme too, the students had the opportunity to have interactive sessions with Prof. Dr. Hazita Azman, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, UKM (FSSK), Prof. Dr. Sity Daud, Chairperson, School of History, Politics, and Strategic Studies (PPSPS), and Dato' Hussin Nayan, Director General, IDFR. The programme comprised as well a session on Academic Writing by Puan Zaidah Hashim, and Prof. Dato' Dr. Zakaria Haji Ahmad's first lecture on Strategy and International Security: Concepts and Theories. As part of the future academic support, the students visited IDFR, UKM and ISIS libraries for familiarisation.

The students commence their classes at IDFR from 7 September 2015.



Reported by: Ong Teck Leng (Intern) Competency Enhancement Centre SPKM: Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses 5/2015



On 28 August 2015, IDFR has concluded its fifth and final series of SPKM: Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses for this year. The two-week course was attended by 75 participants from various ministries, departments and agencies, together with their spouses.

The main objectives of this course were to enhance participants' knowledge and skills in diplomacy and international relations; expose them to matters related to working abroad; prepare them for their varied tasks and responsibilities; and foster esprit de corps among them for efficient performance at Malaysia's Diplomatic Missions.

Participants went through a variety of interactive sessions with invited trainers from both public and private sectors, especially those who have served in Malaysian Diplomatic Missions. Some of the topics covered were Malaysia's Foreign Policy; Role of Spouses; Cross Cultural Awareness; Diplomacy and the Art of Conversation; Royalty and Palace Protocol; Human Trafficking and sessions by the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter Terrorism (SEARCCT).

The participants also had an interactive session with the Director General of IDFR, Dato' Hussin Nayan, where he shared his experience from the perspective of a former diplomat.

Certificates of completion were presented by Puan Romaiza Ab Rahman, Director of Competency Enhancement Centre (CEC), to the participants on the last day of the programme.



Reported by: Ong Teck Leng (Intern) Competency Enhancement Centre A Sharing Session on Humanitarian Crisis in Syria



Ms. Sam Pei Ying, a UNIMAS undergraduate student, who is doing her internship at the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) presented her final year project to YBhg. Dato' Hussin Nayan, Director General of IDFR; Amb. Aminahtun Haji A. Karim, Director of PSED; and officials of the Centre for Political Studies and Economic Diplomacy (PSED) on 20th August 2015.

Ms. Sam presented her research, titled "Humanitarian Crisis in Syria" with the emphasis on the reasons behind the negligence of the Permanent Members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), particularly China and Russia on this issue. Ms. Sam stated that her findings were based on the "Just War Theory" and the principle of "Responsibility to Protect". The "Just War Theory" explained how wars can be morally justified, whereas the principle of "Responsibility to Protect" is on the norm that sovereignty is not an absolute right. Hence, she used this principle and theory to explain the prolonged condition in Syria. The relationship between these two notions reflected certain shortcomings in the UNSC which caused the humanitarian crisis in Syria to remain unresolved until today.

The questions from the floor were on the UNSC resolutions to the crisis and the nature of the principle of "Responsibility to Protect".

Reported by: Loh Wai Keat Centre for Political Studies and Economy Diplomacy (PSED) Economic Diplomacy Series 2/2015 : Negotiating International Economic Agreements



Continuing with the Economic Diplomacy Series as an avenue to enhance knowledge in economic diplomacy, the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) has organised a workshop under the Economic Diplomacy Series 2/2015 titled "Negotiating International Economic Agreements" on 11 August 2015 for the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP): Strategic Analysis for International Participants 2015.

The workshop was conducted by Associate Professor Dr. Sufian Jusoh, Distinguised Fellow of IDFR and external consultant of the World Trade Institute (WTI). The objectives of the workshop were to enhance participants' skills in negotiating international economic agreements, develop techniques for successful negotiation and desired outcomes, and promote coalition building in the context of international commerce and trade agreements.

The workshop commenced with a brief introduction on International Economic Agreements and Psychology/Neuroscience of Negotiating. Dr. Sufian related some of the challenges faced by the World Trade Organisation in fulfilling the national interests of its 162 members as there are always diverging opinions. Hence, bilateral trade agreements in the form of free trade agreements (FTA) appear to be vital in upholding a particular member's interests. He then also discussed differences between international trade agreements and international investment agreements as well as the steps and skills of negotiation such as planning, building relationship, exchanging information, persuasion, and agreement. During the workshop, identifying the main objective, national interest and position before engaging in a negotiation

was also elaborated. In addition, Dr. Sufian also emphasised on good negotiating habits such as listening patiently to all parties involved before moving into further discussions.

In order to recreate negotiation scenarios, participants were divided into groups and discussed the ways to negotiate. The objectives of this session were to promote better understanding in coalition building, enhance the techniques of negotiating in team, and develop analytic thinking in identifying the interests that need to be upheld.

The workshop also discussed about cross cultural negotiations with a superpower such as the United States (US) and a major politico-economic union such as the European Union (EU), and the importance to understand their dynamics and priorities. Dr. Sufian stressed that negotiations with the US and the EU involve protecting their key interests rather than meeting justice.

Among the attendees were 21 diplomats namely from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei, Cuba, Guinea, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Loa PDR, Mauritius, Malaysia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nigeria, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Uganda, and Uzbekistan.





Reported by: Sharizan Laily Shaharuddin Centre of Political Studies and Economic Diplomacy (PSED) Outreach, Information and Public Diplomacy Programme For Diplomatic Training Course For University Malaysia Sabah Student Ambassadors



As part of IDFR's transformation initiative, a three-week Outreach, Information and Public Diplomacy Programme for Diplomatic Training Course for University Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Student Ambassadors was conducted from 27 July to14 August 2015.

This collaboration between IDFR and UMS, involved 14 UMS students who are active in campus events, from various academic backgrounds and 2 Perdana Fellows from the University of Sheffield and UMS respectively. This programme is aimed to create better understanding for the students in diplomacy and how it is being applied in international settings. The programme also provides the participants with knowledge and diplomatic skills and foreign relations. They were also exposed to basic theories of public diplomacy and international relations.

For the first two weeks, the participants were on-job-training with the Main Secretariat of Logistics (SILA) at the ASEAN Summit in Putra World Trade Centre. During their stint at SILA, they learned a lot about logistics arrangements and elements of managing international meetings and other events that involved senior officers, ministers and dignitaries; from writing invitation cards to protocol and etiquettes. The participants gained first hand understanding of the programmes and agenda for the related ASEAN Summit meetings, while at the same time to provide a venue for networking and a platform for the exchange of views between participants and attending diplomats.

They also had the opportunity to participate and organise ASEAN Day 2015 celebration on 8 August 2015 in Bukit Bintang, Kuala Lumpur. These youth ambassadors also attended classes that covers multilateral topics and diplomatic competencies such as ASEAN Chairmanship 2015, Cross-Cultural Awareness, Malaysia's Foreign Policy: Issues, Challenges and The Way Forward, the Roles and Functions of Malaysia's Diplomatic Missions, Malaysia's Non-Permanent Seat in the UNSC 2015-2016, Practices in Protocol, Practices on Consular Work, Media Relations and Media Skills and also Public Speaking and Presentation Skills.

Throughout these classes, the participants were given in-depth exposure to bilateral and multilateral negotiations, Malaysia's Foreign Policy, diplomacy, Consular work and protocol. These were done through interactive lectures and presentations from the participants. One of the highlights of this course was a Tea-Talk sharing session with Her Excellency Ambassador Aminahtun Hj. A. Karim, Director for Centre of Political Studies and Economy Diplomacy. She shared her experiences with the participants mainly concerning the traits of becoming a good diplomat.

On another note, this programme also acts as a platform to enable students to choose their career path and venture into the diplomatic arena. Positive feedbacks garnered from the participants on the quality of the modules, credibility of the speakers and the facilities provided.





Reported by, Nur Syafawani



MTCP Strategic Analysis for International Participants 2015

Strategic Analysis for International Participants 2015 course was organised and held at IDFR from 27 July to 14 August 2015. The three-week course was attended by 22 diplomats, namely from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei, Cuba, Guinea, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Mauritius, Morocco, Myanmar, Nigeria, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, UgandaUzbekistan and Malaysia

The course aimed to enhance the participants' knowledge on strategic thinking and security analysis as well as to expose the participants to the changing political, security and strategic global environment. Furthermore, the course also served as a forum for the exchange of views and ideas regarding strategic thinking and security analysis.

Participants were exposed to an integrated teaching and learning methodology which included discussions, practical exercises in groups and individually, simulation exercises, visits and briefings. Selected modules that were included in the course were Introduction to Malaysia's Foreign Policy, Communicating Across Culture, Law of the Sea Convention 1982 and Its Impact on Southeast Asia, Strategic Choice Process and the Art of Choosing, National and International Security, Countering the Terrorist Narrative, International Negotiations: Analytical Tool for Thorough Preparation, Strategic Issues and Challenges on Human Rights, Scenario Planning/Strategic Future and a country paper presentation by participants which explored the issues and challenges related to their country's bilateral relations with Malaysia.

In addition, the participants were introduced to Malaysia's state-level governance through a study visit to Negeri Sembilan, Malacca and Johore. The visit included briefings from various agencies such as the Malaysian Peacekeeping Training Centre, Economic Planning Unit of Johore and Iskandar Regional Development Authority (IRDA). This module helped provide further understanding on how the Federal and the State Government work hand in hand in developing the nation.

A joint Closing Ceremony and Certificate Presentation for the 22 course participants and 16 participants of Diplomatic Training Course for Universiti Malaysia Sabah Student Ambassadors and Perdana Fellows was graced by the Honourable Dato' Seri Reezal Merican Naina Merica, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia on 14 August 2015 at Hotel Istana, Kuala Lumpur.



Reported by,

Sarah Zahirah Ruhama Centre for Political Studies and Economic Diplomacy (PSED) Charity Programme with Persatuan Rumah Kebajikan Baitul Kasih



The Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) in collaboration with the Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) participants organised a charity programme themed "Diplomacy Through the People" with Persatuan Rumah Kebajikan Baitul Kasih on 12 and 13 July 2015. The programme aimed to inspire and cherish 29 orphans in conjunction with the Eid Mubarak celebration.

Mrs. Farah Dibah Abu Hanipah led a group from IDFR and Perbadanan Tabung Pendidikan Tinggi Nasional (PTPTN) to the orphanage on 12 July 2015 and registered the orphans with the Skim Simpanan Pendidikan Nasional (SSPN-i), a savings scheme specially designed for higher education.

On 13 July 2015, IDFR and the DiD participants visited the orphanage and spent some time to interact and read some books with the orphans. A mini library was also set up during the visit. In the evening, the orphans visited IDFR to break fast together with IDFR officers and DiD participants.

At the end of the session, Mrs. Romaiza Ab Rahman, Director of Competency Enhancement Centre distributed Duit Raya on behalf of the Director General of IDFR and some goodie bags to the orphans.

This effort to reach out to the people will continue to be conducted in the future.

Reported by: Johan Arief Jaafar President Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) 2015

Farah Dibah Abu Hanipah Assistant Director DiD 2015: Session with YBhg. Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah, CEO of Global Movement of Moderates (GMM) on Xenophobia, Inter-cultural and Inter-religious Issues



DiD 2015 participants attended a session on Xenophobia, Inter-cultural and Inter-religious Issues held at the Treaty Room, Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) on 9 July 2015. The session was delivered by YBhg. Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah, Chief Executive Officer, Global Movement of Moderates.

In attendance were Ambassador Aminahtun Haji A. Karim, Director, Centre for Political Studies and Economic Diplomacy and Mrs. Romaiza Abd Rahman, Director, Competency Enhancement Centre, IDFR.

During the session, Dato' Saifuddin spoke on Malaysia's experience dealing with xenophobia and the public's sentiment towards immigrants. He reiterated that handling perception was the key to overcome xenophobia, inter-cultural and inter-religious conflicts.

Dato' Saifuddin also shared his experience attending the United Nations Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in 2013 and suggested for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia to continue engaging other Ministries and Agencies in order to improve Malaysia's position and policies on issues related to xenophobia.

DiD participants took the opportunity to ask questions related to xenophobia, inter-cultural, interreligious and National Unity Consultative Council (NUCC) issues. At the end of the session, Dato' Saifuddin expressed his well wishes to all the DiD participants who would soon be posted abroad.

The session reached its objective to enhance and widen the participants' perspective on these issues. This would be an added advantage for the junior diplomats attending multilateral meetings such as the United Nations (UN), Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).



Reported by:

Johan Arief Jaafar President Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) 2015



DiD 2015: Panel Discussion on Contemporary Political Issues

The Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) 2015 participants in collaboration with IDFR organised a Panel Discussion on Contemporary Political Issues on 3 July 2015.

The invited panellists for the session were YB Dato' Haji Irmohizam Haji Ibrahim, Member of Parliament, Kuala Selangor; Dr. Tunku Mohar Tunku Mohd Mokhtar, Assistant Professor and Head, International Islamic University and Ambassador Datuk Salman Ahmad, former diplomat with over 30 years' experience at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia. The session was moderated by Mr. Firdaus Akhimullah Munir Al-Hakim Ramlly, the DiD 2015 participant. In attendance was Mrs. Romaiza Abd Rahman, IDFR's Director of Competency Enhancement Centre.

The focus of the session was on contemporary political issues from the viewpoint of a Member of Parliament, an academician and a former diplomat, which included history, evolution as well as issues and challenges of Malaysia's politics.

During the session, YB Dato' Irmohizam spoke on the concept of democracy and separation of powers of the executive, legislature and judiciary system. He believed that everybody was part of the civil society with freedom of expression. He further added that social media had become the mainstream media for the youth which represented 43 percent of Malaysia's population. As such, he urged the young generation to be critical in order to support the development of Malaysia.

Meanwhile, Dr. Tunku Mohar shared his knowledge on the structure of Malaysia's politics including Malaysia's constitution, principles of democracy and the concept of a two-party system. He highlighted that Malaysia's current economy including the 11th Malaysia's Plan would be an important factor which could determine the future direction of Malaysia's politics.

Ambassador Datuk Salman Ahmad as the third panellist, elaborated on the important characteristic required in young diplomats prior to their postings abroad namely the sense of responsibility to promote,

defend and love the country. He added that young diplomats needed to be equipped with as much knowledge as possible on Malaysia's policy in order to clearly explain the country's position to their counterparts.

The participants took the opportunity to participate in the discourse and shared their opinions on the future of Malaysia's politics with the panellists. The session achieved its aim in enriching the participant's knowledge on contemporary political issues from various viewpoints.



Reported by:

Johan Arief Jaafar President Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) 2015 DiD 2015: Charity Futsal Meet for Sabah Earthquake Victims



The Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) 2015 participants organised a charity Futsal match at Uptown Sports Center, Bangi on 16 June 2015 to raise funds for the Sabah earthquake victims. The earthquake with a magnitude of 6.0 struck Ranau, Sabah on 5 June 2015 that resulted in 18 casualties and several injured on Mount Kinabalu.

The teams that participated in the charity matches were IDFR, DiD 2015, Sabah Veterans and South East Asia (SEA) Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

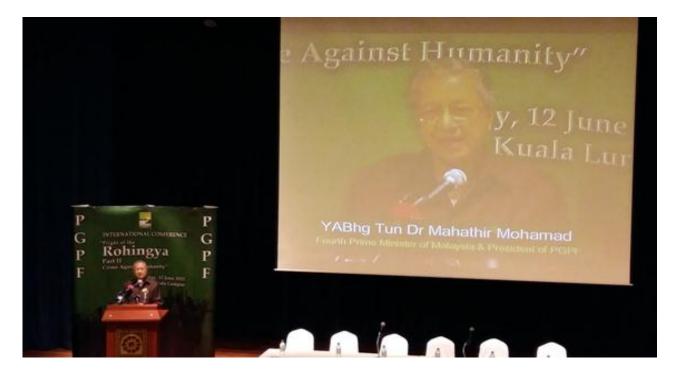
At the end of the matches, donations were collected from the players as well as spectators at the Uptown Sports Center.

The charity Futsal meets reached its objective to collect donations for the Sabah earthquake victims.

The donation drive is still on-going throughout the week. Anyone who is interested to donate could contact Mr. Johan Arief Jaafar, Class President of DiD at 011 2810 6488.



Reported by: Johan Arief Jaafar President, Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) 2015 International Conference on the Plight of the Rohingya, Part II: Crime Against Humanity



An international conference on the Plight of the Rohingya, Part II: Crime Against Humanity was organised by the Perdana Global Peace Foundation (PGPF) on 12 June 2015 at the Islamic Arts Museum, Kuala Lumpur. The welcoming address was delivered by Tan Sri Norian Mai, Chairman of PGPF while Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, the fourth Prime Minister of Malaysia and President of PGPF delivered the keynote address.

The conference gathered prominent speakers from various countries and background to talk on the ongoing plight of the Rohingyas fleeing from state-sponsored brutality committed on the oppressed minority in Myanmar, and of the urgent need to help the Rohingyas who are internally displaced in the country and those who fled for survival only to fall into the hands of human trafficking rings.

Comprising two plenary sessions, distinguished speakers of the first session are Mr. Mohamed Naeem @ Khin Maung Myint of National Democratic Party for Development, Myanmar, Gen. Tan Sri Mohd Azumi Mohamed (Rtd) of PGPF, Dr. Abdul Malik Mujahid of Burma Task Force USA, Dr. Hla Myint of Rohingya Intellectual Community Association of Australia, and Mr. Matthew Smith of Fortify Rights, with Professor Salleh Buang, Deputy Chairman of Kuala Lumpur Foundation to Criminalise War (KLFCW) as moderator. The second session was moderated by Dato' Ahmad Talib, Trustee of PGPF, and invited speakers are Mr. Mohammad Abdoel Malik Rizal of Muhammadiyah, Indonesia, Dato' Dr. Ismail Noor from Malaysia, Reverend Alan Rey Sarte from the Philippines, Dr. Sriprapha Petcharamesree from Thailand, and Mr. Jason Kay of KLFCW.

The two plenary sessions are followed by some observations made by a group of NGO representatives on the plight of the Rohingyas and related issues. Finally, the conference ended with the adoption of a resolution presented by the Chief Rapporteur, Tan Sri Ahmad Fuzi Abdul Razak, Trustee of PGPF and Distinguished Fellow of IDFR. The resolution contained calls for appeal to the governments of ASEAN Member States, Bangladesh, the USA, the EU and Australia as well as the ASEAN Secretariat, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to, among others, provide direct socioeconomic assistance to the Rohingyas in Myanmar, open up opportunities for the Rohingyas to be resettled in third countries, and for the Rohingya issue be made a permanent item in the ASEAN agenda in order to work towards reaching comprehensive solutions in the interest of regional peace and stability.

The conference was attended by members of the diplomatic corps, government officials, representatives from various local and international non-governmental and civil society organisations, media as well as academicians.



Reported by: Sarah Zahirah Ruhama Regional and Security Studies Division IDFR Lecturer Series 3/2015 "China's One Belt, One Road Initiative: Strategic Implications, Regional Responses"



The Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road – collectively called "One Belt, One Road" – represents an initiative of unprecedented ambition and proportions. The Silk Road Economic Belt envisages a series of transcontinental links between China and Europe via Central, South and West Asia. The 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, on the other hand, is aimed at connecting the economies of East Asia and Europe through the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean in one route, and the South Pacific in the other. In order to explore its implications and potentials, the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) organised a roundtable discussion entitled "China's One Belt, One Road Initiative: Strategic Implications, Regional Responses" on 11 June 2015.

The panel discussion consisted of Associate Professor Dr. Farish A. Noor, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore and Distinguished Fellow of IDFR, Mr. Shahriman Lockman, Senior Analyst, Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia, Associate Professor Dr. Ishtiaq Hossain, Department of Political Science, International Islamic University Malaysia and Dr. Ngeow Chow Bing, Deputy Director and Senior Lecturer, Institute of China Studies, Universiti Malaya as the moderator.

YBhg. Dato' Hussin Nayan, Director General of IDFR, in his welcoming remarks expressed that Malaysia and China have enjoyed strong ties especially since the elevation of the bilateral relations mechanism from trade agreement to comprehensive agreement in October 2013. He explained that there are a lot of potentials from the initiative to be mutually explored and would benefit both countries. He further suggested that Malaysia must be ready to engage China more actively as 'all roads now lead to Beijing', as all roads have led to Rome in the past.

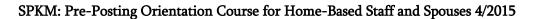
Dr. Ngeow started the session by stating that China's One Belt, One Road Initiative has fascinated many countries, including South Korea which is currently very enthusiastic to be included in the initiative. Malaysia must realises the significance of the project and embark on the possibilities of repositioning its policies to optimise the impacts and benefits of the initiative to the country. The United States (US) has also repositioned its thought and direction on China, as it is inevitable to note that the pressure is now derived from the East. China will not merely be observed as an East Asian power but a Eurasian power as it will soon be setting and offering its own rule, vision, framework and structure. The Sino-Centric alternative will be a worldwide drive that will redefine the global and regional situation.

However, Dr. Farish. A. Noor said that Asia is now at a juncture in the recreation of global human history where Asia can redefine its position, as well as its political terrain and structure in the spirit of coexistence. Citing a book by Kirti N. Chaudhuri entitled "Asia Before Europe", history has shown that Asia was a stable continent in the past 2,000 years that stand and support each other hand-in-hand on mutual interaction and dependability. The interest on trading and economy has always been primarily interactive in the past and current times. Despite China's remarkable achievement in economic expansion throughout the region, China is notedly absent in injecting its cultural hegemony compared to the Western countries (where their cultural hegemony is omnipresent). He advocates ASEAN countries to maintain its pragmatic realism approach towards China, and urges for continuous engagement with China in positive and beneficial way through continuous dialogue and engagement with China.

Mr. Shahriman made a point that out that the economic initiative (specifically the Maritime Silk Road Initiative) mooted by China has reshaped the economic geography in Asia. He explained the underpinnings of China's One Belt One Road Initiative as to be open, flexible, and long term, and he further streamlined three main drives behind Malaysia's response to this initiative: the interest of Malaysia; ASEAN inter-relations realm; and refusal of any major power to dominate the project. In addition, Malaysia also stands to benefit economically from the One Belt One Road.

The final speaker, Dr. Ishtiaq Hossain continued the discussion by stating that China possess an advantage over the United States; China does not interfere in any domestic affairs. The new realism championed by China focuses on economic development and attempts to empower its cultural hegemony, mostly on the importance of Mandarin as one of the world's most spoken language. At this juncture, the initiative is positive for Asia to reshape the world with a new understanding towards a fresh and new world order.

Reported by Mohammed Nur Anuar bin Nordin Diploma in Diplomacy 2015





The fourth series of SPKM: Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses 2015 was held from 8 to 12 June 2015. The programme, which was specifically for officers grade 38 and below and their spouses, was attended by 40 participants from various ministries and government agencies.

The programme aimed to expose the participants to matters related to working at Malaysia's Diplomatic Missions abroad, prepare the officers and spouses for their varied functions and duties at posts, and instill esprit de corps among officers from various ministries and government agencies for effective performance.

Throughout the programme, interactive lectures covered topics such as Administrative and Security Matters at Missions, Financial Management, Consular Works at the Malaysian Missions, Protocol Matters Related to Foreign Service, Grooming and Social Etiquette, Cross-Cultural Awareness, Human Trafficking, and Religious, Cultural and Consular Matters Related to Death at Missions. The participants also attended various practical sessions, including a session on Fine Dining Theory and Practicum at Berjaya Times Square Hotel Kuala Lumpur and Cooking Demonstration and Food Presentation at Taylor's College.

Certificates of completion were presented to the participants by the Senior Deputy Director of Training, Puan Romaiza Ab Rahman on the last day of the programme.



Reported by: Siti Farsha Murni Izami Training Division

ASEAN 2015 Workshop For Liaison Officers In Kuching, Sarawak



IDFR organised a workshop for Liaison Officers in conjunction with ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting (SOM), ASEAN Plus Three (APT) SOM, East Asia Summit (EAS) SOM and ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) SOM at Pullman Hotel Kuching, Sarawak on the 6 June 2015. The one day workshop had 28 participants from the Sarawak State Secretary including various federal and state departments.

The workshop aimed to enhance the participants' knowledge and skills particularly on identifying the key elements of protocol and liaison duties, understanding the programmes and agenda for all ASEAN meetings as well as to prepare themselves in carrying out liaison duties.

There were three speakers namely YBhg. Dato' Khir Busrah from the Sarawak Federal Secretary Office, Mr. Buckland Bangik from the Sarawak State Planning Unit and Madam Rahimah Yeop from Jendela Ilmu Consultants. YBhg. Dato' Khir Busrah and Mr. Buckland briefed the participants with regards to the ASEAN meetings, while Madam Rahimah touched about Liaison Duties:Pre, During and Post and Personal Grooming and Etiquette.



Reported by: Ms Siti Farsha Murni Izami Training Divison DiD 2015: Visit by DiD Participants to the National Palace



With a view to sharpening diplomatic soft skills among young diplomats, 18 participants of the Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) 2015 underwent the Royalty and Palace Protocol sub-module at the National Palace on 22 May 2015.

The session was conducted by Mr. Sophian Ab Rahman, the Ceremonial Officer from the Ceremonial Division, National Palace. During the session, the participants were briefed on the history and functions of the Constitutional Monarchy and National Palace including the nomination process of His Majesty the Yang di-Pertuan Agong as prescribed in the Third Schedule of the Federal Constitution and Regulations of the Conference of Rulers. They also took part in simulation exercise on procedures in presenting gifts to His Majesty the Yang di-Pertuan Agong as well as receiving credentials from His Majesty.

The interactive approach on this sub-module has managed to further increase participant's knowledge and understanding of the royal and palace protocol. This will prepare them to handle His Majesty and the royalties in a proper manner when they serve abroad in the future.



Reported by: Johan Arief Jaafar President, Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) 2015

Islamic State (IS) and Its Threats to Malaysia Forum



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia has organised a forum on "The Islamic State (IS) and Its Threats to Malaysia" on Friday, 22 May 2015 at Auditorium WP1, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Putrajaya.

Islamic State (IS) is a radical Islamist group that has seized large swathes of territory in eastern Syria and across northern and western Iraq. Its brutal tactics of mass killings and abductions of members of religious and ethnic minorities, as well as the beheadings of soldiers and journalists have sparked fear and outrage across the world and prompted US military intervention. The forum discussed in great detail of the threats coming from groups that support the existence of the Islamic State (IS), and the off-late increased involvement of Malaysians with the organisation.

Among the points raised were the need to proactively counter the spread of harmful ideologies by IS through the social media, the collective responsibility of all to protect and defend national security and that there should be a balance between national security and civil liberty.

The forum has also allowed for the issue to be viewed from the various perspectives as the session was paneled by panelist from various Government agencies. The panelists for the forum were YBhg. Dato' Ayob Khan Mydin Pitchay, Assistant Director General, Special Branch (Operations/Counter Terrorism division), Mr. Hamzah Ishak, Undersecretary, Majlis Keselamatan Negara, and Mr. Shamril Faizalis Shamsul Bahari, Security and Public Order Division, Ministry of Home Affairs. The forum was moderated by Mr. Nik Hussein Nik Ali from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia.

Reported by: Sarah Zahirah Ruhama Regional and Security Division

MTCP: English Language for Diplomacy 2015



The course was conducted from 20 May to 2 June 2015. The two-week course was attended by 20 diplomats, namely from, Bosnia, Fiji, Georgia, Kyrgyz Republic, Lao PDR, Bhutan, Cambodia, Guinea, Gambia, Kenya, Morocco, Mauritania, Mauritius, Nigeria, Paraguay, Sudan, Tajikistan, Togo, Uzbekistan and Malaysia.

The course aimed to enhance their English language skills and knowledge as the main medium of communication in conducting diplomacy and international affairs. It also served to make the participants know the techniques and strategies of using English language effectively orally and in writing. The course also aimed to enhance their general English Language proficiency in the areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing.

During the course, the participants went through an integrated teaching and learning methodology which included briefings, discussions, interactive lectures, simulations and exercises. Among the modules conducted were Introduction to Malaysia's Foreign Policy, Listening/Speaking Skills, Presentation Skills and Public Speaking, Writing Skills, Speech Drafting/Editing and Proofreading, Introduction to ASEAN, Development of Putrajaya and Cyberjaya, Applied Psychology in Diplomacy, Language and Diplomacy, Language of Negotiation and Socialising, Language and Media and an Exhibition to showcase each country's unique aspect in My World: Your World held at IDFR itself.

In addition to that, the participants were introduced to Malaysia's state-level governance when they spent four days in the state of Melaka. This module aimed to provide further understanding on the mechanism involved in Malaysia's governance system whereby the Federal and State Government play and share equal role and responsibility in developing the nation.



Reported by: Imran Ariff Mohammad Amin Training Division

DiD 2015: French Film and Art Festival 2015



The French Film and Art Festival was held in Kuala Lumpur and Penang from 14 May to 16 June 2015. It was organised by the Alliance Française and the Embassy of France in Kuala Lumpur to showcase French performing arts, visual arts and cinema as well as create linkages between Malaysian and French cultures.

The Diploma in Diplomacy 2015 (DiD) participants were privileged to be directly briefed by the representatives from Alliance Française on the various events held in conjunction with the festival at IDFR on 18 May 2015. Free French movie tickets were also distributed to the lucky winners to watch a limited screening of French movies at local cinemas.

On 19 May 2015, Mrs. Jeanette Daina, IDFR's French language teacher, led the DiD participants to a photo exhibition by French photographer, Ms. Maia Flore at Publika, Kuala Lumpur. The exhibition offered a glimpse of 25 cultural sites in France such as the Palais des Papes in Avignon, the Gardens of the Versailles Palace or the City of Carcassonne as well as many other historical sites in France.

The DiD participants also attended a dance performance show by Pierre Rigal and his dancers on 3 June 2015 at the Malaysia Tourism Centre (MATIC), Kuala Lumpur. The show showcases a powerful symbol of identity by French urban dancers.

Other events included exclusive dinner experiences in selected French restaurants in Kuala Lumpur to celebrate fine dining and highlight its unique cuisine to guests.

Overall, the French Film and Art Festival held was apt and timely for the DiD participants to experience French culture in Kuala Lumpur. It also provided the opportunity for the participants to converse in French language with other attendees of the festival and establish their networking with the French community based in Kuala Lumpur.



Reported by: Johan Arief Jaafar President, Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) 2015



Seminar : Malaysia - Singapore Relations: Unsettled Issues and Future Prospects

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) has organised a seminar by Tan Sri Ab. Kadir Mohamad titled "Malaysia-Singapore Relations: Unsettled Issues and Future Prospects" on Monday, 18 May 2015. Tan Sri Ab. Kadir was the adviser for Foreign Affairs to the Prime Minister of Malaysia from 2003 to 2009, and writer of the book "Malaysia-Singapore Relations: 50 Years of Contention" that was published in January 2015.

Tan Sri began his lecture by revisiting the history of Singapore's separation from Malaysia in 1965 and managed to capture the audience by his brief but succinct retelling of history behind selected unsettled issues, and the lessons that Malaysia has learned from our long history of bilateral negotiations with Singapore. These include the supply of Johor water to Singapore, the unending issues with White Rock, the Malayan Railway land in Singapore, the crooked bridge to replace the causeway, the land reclamation by Singapore in the Straits of Johor, Singapore's defence, the end of the Lee Kuan Yew era and the prospects for the next fifty years in Malaysia-Singapore relations.

Tan Sri He further stressed the importance of the mastering the English language and negotiation especially with issues such as these. He also urged the younger generation to ensure the Malaysia-Singapore partnership (Khazanah Nasional and Temasek Holdings) not to fail to preserve the history of the Malayan Railway. He reiterated that replacing the Causeway will be advantageous to Tanjung Pelepas and other ports to compete as a trading hub. He hopes that Singapore will continually abide by the decisions made by international courts.

Tan Sri was optimistic that Singapore will be sufficient on water matters, however that also means Malaysia will no longer have the power over the issue to dictate Singapore on our terms. Singapore must also stop viewing Malaysia as a security and sovereignty threat, citing Malaysia's racial-based political system will be a strong enough deterrent for any political leader to welcome the idea of Singapore once again joining Malaysia. He expressed his wish that Singapore will start treating Malaysia as simply another

regular interlocutor in the affairs between nations, and to go against Lee Kuan Yew's decree that "Singapore should always view Malaysia as a country for special treatment".

In the next fifty years, Tan Sri envisioned that the fundamentals already in existentance today will help build towards a mutual beneficial cooperation: both Malaysia and Singapore are one of each other's largest trading partner, investors and pool for tourists. He reiterated that both sides must find "win-win solutions" in all disputes, and urged for Malaysian negotiators to think and act like their Singapore counterparts. YBhg. Tan Sri expressed his wish that through the writing of his book, the mistakes and weaknesses of the last 50 years must not be repeated and jeopardises Malaysia's national interest for 50 years to come.

Various academics and students of political science attended the session.



Reported by: Sharizan Laily Shaharuddin Regional and Security Studies Division DiD 2015: Panel Discussion 1 on Theories and Practices in Diplomacy and International Relations



The Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) 2015 participants organised its first Panel Discussion on Theories and Practices in Diplomacy and International Relations on 15 May 2015.

The invited panellists for the session were Dr. Wahabudeen Raees, Associate Professor from the Department of Political Science, Faculty of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences, International Islamic University and Ambassador Dato' Mohd Arshad M. Hussain, a career diplomat with over 36 years' experience at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia. The session was moderated by Mr. Johan Arief Jaafar, the Class President of DiD 2015.

In attendance was Ambassador Aminahtun Haji A. Karim, IDFR's Deputy Director General, Mr. Syed Bakri Syed Abd Rahman, IDFR's Director of Training and other officers from the Institute. The discussion was focused on theories and practices in diplomacy and international relations from both the academic and practical viewpoint, which includes issues on challenges faced by present day diplomats.

During the session, Dr. Raees touched on the role of diplomats designed from Islamic history and tradition from a Muslim's viewpoint. He elaborated on the crucial distinction made in the Islamic theology between Dar Al-Harb (territory of the enemy) and Dar Al-Islam (territory of peace) and suggested for future diplomats to relook at the writings of Muslim scholars in the pursuit of achieving a better understanding of international relations.

Meanwhile, Dato' Arshad shared his experience as a career diplomat which included his involvement in the Sipadan kidnapping crisis in the year 2000 (a kidnapping of 21 foreign and Malaysian hostages by the Abu Sayyaf Group). Dato' Arshad revealed his involvement in the negotiations process with the notorious group in order to secure the hostages' release. He then stressed on the need to have "network diplomacy" that can add value to diplomats during their stint abroad.

The session achieved its aim in providing scholarly theories as well as practical approach in the contemporary diplomacy and international relations discipline.



Reported by: Johan Arief Jaafar President, Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) 1/2015 Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) programme series 1/2015: "Arabic Products and Folklore Exhibition"



Eighteen participants of the Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) programme series 1/2015 had the opportunity to attend the Arabic Products and Folklore Exhibition which was held at the Ritz Carlton Hotel, Kuala Lumpur on 13 May 2015. The aim of the exhibition, which was organised by the wives of ambassadors from 11 Arab countries, is to promote the traditional food, lifestyle and culture of the Arab communities to the local people. The 11 countries involved in the exhibition were Palestine, Lebanon, Oman, Morocco, Egypt, Kuwait, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Qatar and Sudan.

The function was graced by Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, the wife of our Prime Minister. Proceeds from the event were presented by the organiser to Yayasan Permata through Datin Seri Rosmah as its patron.

The short visit to the event was a great platform for the participants to extend their professional networking with the Arab countries' diplomatic corps based in Kuala Lumpur. It also served as a great avenue for the participants to put into practice the diplomatic soft skills and cross-cultural communication skills taught in class during the DiD programme.

Reported by:

Carmallia Budiaty Che Embi Diploma in Diplomacy 1/2015 SPKM: Pre-Posting Orientation Course For Home-Based Staff And Spouses 3/2015



IDFR welcomed 57 participants from various ministries and government agencies for the third series of SPKM: Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses, conducted from 11 to 22 May 2015.

The programme, which was held specifically for officers grade 41 and above and their spouses, gave an overview of the various aspects of work at Malaysia's Diplomatic Missions abroad. This comprised modules related to the participants' functions, roles, tasks and responsibilities abroad and esprit de corps among them.

The participants attended various theoretical and practical sessions, including a session on Fine Dining Theory and Practicum with Mr. Sophian Ab Rahman, Ceremonial Officer from the National Palace. During the session, the participants were exposed to the dos and don'ts in a fine-dining setting, table setting, and appropriate crockery and this was followed by a simulation.

The participants were also privileged to have a session with IDFR Deputy Director General, H.E. Ambassador Aminahtun Hj. A. Karim. She shared her experience as a senior diplomat from the angle of cross-cultural understanding. She explained about the challenges and complications due to cross-cultural differences and ways to manage the diversity.

The certificate of completion was presented by the Director of Training, Mr. Syed Bakri Syed Abdul Rahman on the last day of the course.





Reported by: Dzuita Mohamed Training Division ASEAN Ambassador Lecture Series 1/2015. "Malaysia-Indonesia Relations under the Jokowi Administration and its Impact for the Region"



The Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) has organised a panel discussion under the ASEAN Ambassador Lecture Series 1/2015 titled "*Malaysia-Indonesia Relations under the Jokowi* Administration and Its Impact for the Region" on 7 May 2015.

The panel discussed Indonesia's relations with Malaysia. In addition, the panel analysed Indonesia's foreign policy under the nine pillars of administration known as "Nawa Cita" as envisioned by President Jokowi. The panel further provided insights on current trends and future prospects of its bilateral relations and went on to outline how this engagement will impact on the region.

The panel consists of three panelists and a moderator that included H. E. Air Chief (Ret.) Herman Prayitno, the Indonesian Ambassador to Malaysia and His Excellency began his presentation by highlighting the recent 26th ASEAN Summit that was held in Kuala Lumpur and Langkawi. He also expressed full support for Malaysia as ASEAN Chairman 2015 and assured President Jokowi's commitment to the building of ASEAN Community endeavour. He also gave a brief explanation on the bilateral relations of Malaysia and Indonesia and highlighted several areas of mutual cooperation for both countries.

Associate Professor Dr Farish A. Noor, from S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University stressed about the importance of inculcating the sense of belonging within the people in the region towards ASEAN and how this important initiative could benefit and solidify this region in the near future. The final speaker was Mr. Mohd Zamruni Khalid, Deputy Director General from the ASEAN-Malaysia National Secretariat, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia. Mr. Mohd Zamruni briefly touched on the recently concluded 26th ASEAN Summit. During the forum, Indonesia expressed its intention to strengthen bilateral relations with Malaysia and to give full commitment in realising the ASEAN Community by the end of the year. The session was moderated by Mr. Shahriman Lockman, Senior Analyst at the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS), Malaysia.

Among the attendees were officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other government agencies, members of the diplomatic corps, academicians, representatives from think tanks and undergraduate and postgraduate students from public and private institutions of higher learning.



Reported by: Nik Luqman Bin Wan Zainoddin Regional and Security Studies Division



DiD 2015: Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) 2015 Opening Ceremony

The Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) is currently organising the Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) 2015 programme from 5 May to 13 November 2015. The DiD programme is a six-month mandatory programme for junior Malaysian diplomats. The programme is designed to equip the junior diplomats with knowledge and skills in the practice of diplomacy and international relations. Upon successfully completing the programme, they will be conferred the "Diploma in Diplomacy".

The opening ceremony for the programme was held at the Treaty Room, Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday, 5 May 2015. In attendance was Her Excellency Ambassador Aminahtun Haji A Karim, Deputy Director General of IDFR; His Excellency Ambassador Zainol Rahim Zainuddin, Director General, Department of Strategic Planning and Implementation, Wisma Putra; Mr. Riedzal Malik, Principal Assistant Secretary, Human Resource Division, Wisma Putra; Officials from IDFR; DiD Secretariat, as well as all 18 DiD participants.

Her Excellency Ambassador Aminahtun in her opening remarks expressed her hopes for the participants to actively participate in all the modules and gained the most benefits from all distinguished speakers invited. Subsequently, His Excellency Ambassador Zainol in his remarks, also highlighted on the importance of DiD programme in providing solid foundations in required knowledge and skills prior to the participants being posting abroad.

The ceremony was concluded with the pledge and signing of 'Aku Janji' by the participants, led by Mr. Mohd Hail Anif Mohd Fauzi.



Reported by: Johan Arief Jaafar President, Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) 2015 MIDAS Talk 11/2015 by H.E Le Luong Minh on "Asean Community 2015: Challenges and Opportunities"



The Malaysian Institute of Defence and Security (MiDAS) has organised the MIDAS Talk 11/2015 by H.E Le Luong Minh on "Asean Community 2015: Challenges and Opportunities" on Wednesday, 29 April 2015 at Price Hotel and Residence, Kuala Lumpur. H.E Le is the Secretary General of ASEAN.

H.E Le Luong Minh congratulated Malaysia for the success of 26th ASEAN Summit, which was held in Kuala Lumpur and Langkawi on 26-28 April 2015. He believed positive outcome will be made by the end of 2015 in ASEAN's effort to build a three-pillared ASEAN Community of political cohesion, economic integration and social responsibility.

In his lecture, he mentioned ASEAN's efforts to build a truly people-oriented, people-centred ASEAN Community have underpinned the peace and stability of the region, allowing the regional and national economies to flourish and remain resilient.

Some of the challenges that confront ASEAN, in his view, are the recent external shocks that have affected ASEAN directly or indirectly including the financial crisis, uncertain security environment and emerging non-traditional and transnational challenges. He urges ASEAN to be dynamic and flexible enough to respond to extraneous factors without compromising it's principles and well-being and ensuring regional peace and stability with ASEAN at the driver's seat.

The other challenge is the situation in the South China Sea which remains a concern in the region. ASEAN and China have commenced discussions on the implementation of the Declaration of Conduct (DOC) in

the South China Sea and a Code of Conduct (COC) and some progress was made at the recent Joint Working Group Meeting on the DOC and COC held in Myanmar recently.

In addition, ASEAN has to tackle head-on emerging non-traditional security challenges such as trafficking in persons, terrorism and extremism, drugs and pandemic diseases. A serious concern at this point is the threat of violent extremism and radicalism. In the last quarter of this year, Malaysia will convene a special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Violent Extremism to look into these non-traditional challenges posed by terrorism, extremism, violence and radicalisation.

On the journey to ASEAN Community, the grouping is now developing a new strategy of 'One ASEAN, One Response' in the field of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. This strategy is derived against the background increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters in ASEAN countries and their devastating impacts on the lives and economies of ASEAN communities.

ASEAN's ultimate success as a regional organisation will be seen in how it has contributed to the improvement and betterment of the living conditions of nearly 625 million ASEAN citizens. For this, ASEAN has used its central and pivotal role to drive the deepening of economic integration within the region and into the global economy with a view to reducing poverty and socio-economic disparities among its Member States and people.

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, and Mrs. Farah Dibah Abu Hanipah.



Reported by: Farah Dibah Abu Hanipah Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division ASEAN 2015 Workshop for Liaison Officers for Ministry of Youth and Sports, Malaysia



IDFR organised a workshop for Liaison Officers for officers from the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MYS), Malaysia from 20 to 22 April 2015 at the International Youth Center (IYC) in Cheras, Kuala Lumpur. The three-day workshop was attended by 47 officers from various agencies under the MYS.

The workshop aimed to enhance the participants' knowledge and skills particularly on identifying the key elements of protocol and liaison duties, understanding the programmes and agenda for all ASEAN meetings as well as to make preparations in carrying out liaison duties. The workshop was part of MYS preparation to host ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Sports (AMMS) and international events this year in conjunction with Malaysia's chairmanship of ASEAN.

The topics discussed in the workshop were Introduction to International and ASEAN Protocol; Introduction to MYS's Role, Walkabout and Simulation at Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA), Cross Cultural Awareness and Communication, Event Management's Administrative Programme and Arrangement; The Roles and Functions of a Liaison Officers, Language and Communication Skills, Personal Grooming and Etiquette, Sharing of Experience Session in Handling Events, Speaking and Listening Skills, and Key Phrases and Simulation of Summit Proceedings.

Reported by: Imran Ariff Mohammad Amin Training Division Launching of "Mexico and Malaysia: Celebrating 40 Years of Friendship" and the Panel Discussion on "Mexico - Malaysia Relations Present and Future Opportunities and Challenges"



The launch of the publication *Mexico & Malaysia, Celebrating 40 years of Friendship* was held at the Senate Room, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) or National University of Malaysia on the 14 April 2015. The event started at 10.00 a.m. with Welcoming Remarks by Professor Datuk Dr. Noor Azlan Ghazali, Vice Chancellor of UKM and Opening Remarks by H.E. Carlos Felix Corona, Ambassador of Mexico to Malaysia. The publication was then launched after Opening Remarks by Datuk Dr. Rebecca Sta. Maria, Secretary General of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia.

The publication captures 40 years of diplomatic ties between Mexico and Malaysia, its bilateral relationship of political dialogues, economic interactions, cultural presence and academic cooperation. The event then continued with a Panel Discussion on *Mexico-Malaysia Relations Present and Future Opportunities and Challenges.* The panel discussion was moderated by Associate Professor Dr. Zarina Othman, Head of the Centre for Latin American Studies. The panellists included H.E Carlos Felix Corona; Dato' Shamsuddin Abdullah, former Ambassador of Malaysia to Mexico (2005-2007); Ms. Elina Noor, Assistant Director of Foreign Policy and Security Studies, ISIS Malaysia; Professor Dr. Rashila Ramli, Director of the Institute for Malaysian and International Studies, , UKM and Mr. Fikry El-Kaissouni, Country Director of Cemex Concrete (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd.

The discussion ventured into the areas where Mexico and Malaysia can further strengthen diplomatic relations, especially in political consultation, economic cooperation along with cultural and academic cooperation. H.E Corona suggested more visits between high level officers, planning a master plan of strategic partnership and deep dialogues. He further stressed that commercial exchanges with bilateral and regional strategies be synergised especially in the areas of tourism, automotive and halal industries. The panel discussion also talked about establishing a commission on Mexico-Malaysia to promote cultural and academic cooperation.

It was suggested that Mexico and Malaysia should leverage on Malaysia's Chairmanship of ASEAN. The panel discussion also took note of ISIS' suggestion that more cooperation between Mexico and Malaysia's think tank is needed especially to promote geostrategic cooperation and people-to-people exchanges.



Reported by: Siti Nooraznie Abdul Rahim Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division A Talk on 'Confucianism and the Concept of Greater China'



On 10 April 2015, a talk by Professor Anne Cheng, Chair in Intellectual History of China at the College de France on 'Confucianism and the Concept of Greater China' was held at the Institute of China Studies Seminar Room, University of Malaya (UM). The talk was organised by the Embassy of France in Malaysia as well as the Institute of China Studies and Malaysia France University Centre of UM.

Professor Cheng's talk began with a focus on the Chinese conception of universality. She emphasised that the Chinese version of universality is very different from the French universality of human rights, a product of the European Enlightenment, in that the former has to do with the idea of civilisation that is very much influenced by Confucian sources. Essentially the concept revolves around how China perceives itself and its peripheries.

Discussions about the concept of Chinese universality also involved the philosophy of All under Heaven (tianxia), the worldview throughout the dynastic history of the Middle Kingdom and is still relevant in the present-day China. It denotes the utopia of the world as one family and has to do with Confucian sources under the idea of Great Harmony (datong).

There was an attendance of thirty-odd people, including officials from the Embassy of France, professionals, academicians and both local and foreign students.



Reported by: Lim Hui Chin Office of Director General Workshop on Diplomacy and Security for ASEAN Mid-Level Career Diplomats 2015



Workshop on Diplomacy and Security for ASEAN Mid-Level Career Diplomats 2015 was conducted by Training Division, Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia from 8 – 21 April 2015. The programme was attended by 14 participants from six ASEAN countries; Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam.

During the two-week programme, the participants were introduced to a wide range of topics which includes: Introduction to Malaysia's Foreign Policy, Diplomacy and Media Relations, International Reliefs' Efforts and Managing Humanitarian Crisis, Understanding Terrorism and CBRNE Threat, ASEAN-Regional Integration, International Negotiations, Multilateral Diplomacy on Economic and Environmental Issues, Diplomacy in Crisis Management and Human Rights and Diplomacy.

Apart from the substantive elements, the participants were also introduced to Malaysia's State Governance system through a visit conducted to the state of Terengganu. This visit was aimed to provide understanding on the mechanism involved in Malaysia's governance system as the Federal and State Governments share roles and responsibility in developing the nation. There were also introduced to the history and sociology of Kuala Lumpur through a one day city tour.

At the end of the programme, the participants agreed that the course was able to meet its objectives and should be continue for future ASEAN's mid-level career diplomats.

Reported by: Siti Farsha Murni Izami Training Divison SPKM: Pre-Posting Orientation Course For Home-Based Staff And Spouses 2/2015



The second series of SPKM: Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses was held from 6 to 10 April 2015. The programme was attended by 23 officers grade 38 and below from various ministries and agencies with their spouses. The spouses were required to attend only the first three days of the programme.

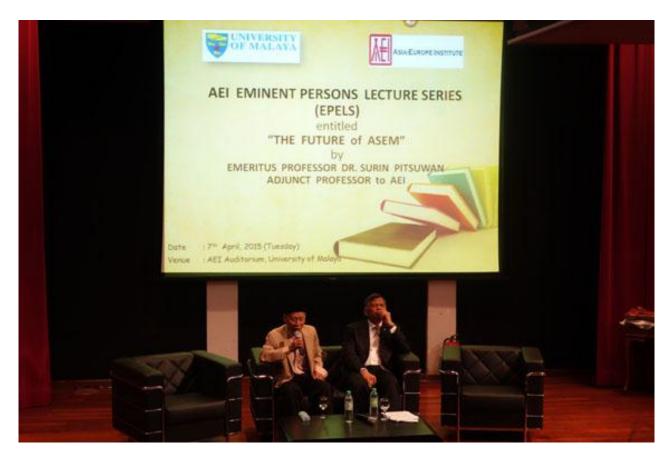
The programme aimed to expose them to matters related to working at Malaysia's Diplomatic Missions abroad, to prepare the officers and spouses for their varied functions and duties abroad, and to instil esprit de corps among them for effective performance at Malaysia's Diplomatic Missions.

The participants had a variety of interactive sessions with professionals from the public and private sectors, group discussions and experience sharing with those who have served in Malaysia's Diplomatic Missions abroad. The lecture sessions covered on topics such as Administrative and Security Matters at Missions, Financial Management, Consular Works at the Malaysian Missions, Protocol Matters Related to Foreign Service, Grooming and Social Etiquette, Cross-Cultural Awareness, Human Trafficking, and Religious, Cultural and Consular Matters Related to Death at Missions.



Reported by: Dzuita Mohamed Training Division

Eminent Person Lecture Series (EPELS) titled, "The Future of ASEM"



On 7 April 2015, the Asia-Europe Institute (AEI) of University of Malaya (UM) organised the Eminent Person Lecture Series (EPELS). This time the speaker was Emeritus Professor Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, Adjunct Professor to AEI titled, "The Future of ASEM" at its Auditorium.

The Lecture basically revolved around the backdrop to the creation of Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) and its long-term prospects. It was said that the very idea of creating ASEM came from the robust economic growth of East Asia. This notwithstanding, it is important to cultivate good relations and promote long term collaboration across Asia and Europe for the common good. And that the relations must be based on equal partnership and mutual respect.

The Lecture was attended by Ambassadors and members of the diplomatic corps; Former Malaysian Heads of Mission; government officials from agencies such as Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), Ministry of Defence (MINDEF) and the Institute for Youth Research under the Ministry of Youth and Sports; academicians; researchers; students and journalists. IDFR was represented by Mrs. Zanariah Abdul Malek, Deputy Director of the Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division; Mrs. Farah Dibah Abu Hanipah, Assistant Director from the same Division; and Ms. Lim Hui Chin, Assistant Director of the Office of Director General.



Reported by: Lim Hui Chin Office of Director General ASEAN-Australia Engagement: Trends and Prospects for the Region



The first IDFR Ambassador Lecture Series for 2015 was started by H.E. Rod Smith, Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia on the 31 March 2015. The IDFR Ambassador Lecture Series is held in conjunction with Malaysia's Chairmanship of ASEAN, it provides a platform for all the heads of mission from both member states and regional partners to share their views and perspectives on topics related to the engagement of their respective countries with ASEAN.

The panel discussion comprised of three panelists and a moderator. The first panelist was H.E. Rod Smith, who gave a brief history of Australia's presence in Malaysia date even before Malaysia gained independence. He hopes that through engagements bilateral relations of both countries could be strengthened. Dato' Dr. Mohd Yusof Ahmad, Head of Institute of ASEAN Studies and Global Affairs who was the second panelist from Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) mentioned that Australia has done a lot for both Malaysia and the region and the bilateral relations between Malaysia and Australia is strong at the moment. However tension is building up in the region with China and India as a rising power and that situation could change if we do not maintain a good and strong bilateral relationship. Dato Yusof also made an important observation that ASEAN should not only be at the receiving end but also being reciprocal to Australia if we want to continue the strong bilateral relation with Australia. The final speaker was H.E. Ambassador Jojie Samuel, Deputy Director General from the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia. Ambassador Jojie in his presentation mentioned that he had just returned from attending the ASEAN-Australia forum which was held in the Philippines from 25th-27th March 2015. During the forum, Australia expressed its interest to be involved more strategically in ASEAN and as Action Plan had been developed to study ASEAN and Australia's relations at a more strategic level.

The session was moderated by Tuan Syed Mohamed Bakri Syed Abd. Rahman Director of Training Division at IDFR. Among the attendees were diplomatic corps, academic, government officials, representative from members of the think tanks and students.



Reported by: Eminder Kaur Kawan Singh Regional and Security Studies Division ISIS International Affairs Forum "Diplomacy and Security Policy of Prime Minister Abe"



Professor Shinichi Kitaoka, President of International University, Japan delivered a talk on "Diplomacy and Security Policy of Prime Minister Abe". It was organised by the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) on Monday, 16 March 2015 at the ISIS Conference Room. The programme commenced with Welcoming Remarks by YBhg. Tan Sri Rastam Mohd Isa, Chairman and Chief Executive of ISIS.

As an overview, Professor Kitaoka pointed out the return of geopolitics in today's scenario. A broad understanding of the traditional customs and values of the country is essential to garner support from the people and maintain a peaceful order in the society and within the region.

Professor Kitaoka presented two main points in Japan's Foreign Policy under the Abe Administration namely, Security Policy and Historical Perception and Reconciliation. As a country that does not believe in the use of force as means of settling international disputes, the Abe Administration introduced a few measures to further strengthen Japan's security policy. As the Acting Chair of the Advisory Panel on Reconstruction of the Legal Basis for National Security, he shared with the audience the challenges and issues faced by the Abe Administration in restructuring their national security from the legal aspect. The major issues are mostly related to matters concerning rights of self-defense and collective security.

Professor Kitaoka elaborated on Article 9-1 and Article 9-2 of the Japanese Constitution which covered peaceful solution of international disputes and any war disputes. He also touched on the Rule of Law as the key to which any dispute should be solved peacefully. Abe's diplomacy strategy concentrates on deepening ties with the United States, Southeast Asian countries, India and Australia. At the same time, Japan gives more emphasis on cooperation with African and Middle Eastern countries.

The participants were from various ministries and government agencies, multinational companies, NGOs, individuals and IDFR was represented by Mdm. Zanariah Abdul Malek and Mdm. Sharizan Laily Shaharuddin.



Reported by: Sharizan Laily Shaharuddin and Zanariah Abdul Malek Regional and Security Studies Division and Academic Studies, Research & Publication Division



Asia-Europe Public Diplomacy Training Initiative Workshop

IDFR hosted the Asia-Europe Public Diplomacy Training Initiative Workshop from 10 – 12 March 2015. The Workshop was organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and its collaborators, the DiploFoundation and the National Centre for Research on Europe (NCRE) – University of Canterbury, New Zealand. The Initiative is funded by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland and ASEF with the support of the European Union. It was attended by 28 young diplomats from the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) member countries.

The main objective of the Workshop was to enhance the public diplomacy efforts among countries in Asia and Europe. The focus was on skill-oriented training which was formulated by experts, practitioners and academicians in the field of public diplomacy. IDFR's involvement in the Workshop as the host was an evident support towards this Initiative and Asia-Europe public diplomacy in general.

During the three-day programme, a wide range of topics were covered including: Public Diplomacy: From Malaysia's Perspectives; Asia-Europe Relations, The role of Non-Governmental Organisations in Public Diplomacy; Introduction to Public Diplomacy; Public Diplomacy SWOT Analysis Asia in Europe and Europe in Asia; E-diplomacy; Cross Cultural Understanding and its Implications on Public Diplomacy; Working with the Media and Public Diplomacy Strategy Exercise.

The participants were engaged in simulation processes, hands-on exercises, group work and discussions and debates on various issues related to public diplomacy. These were facilitated by a group of speakers from various organisations from Asia and Europe. The training gave the chance for the participants to get insights from public diplomacy practitioners and experienced diplomats on their involvement in enhancing public diplomacy efforts among ASEM members.

The Workshop ended with a high-tea reception hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia (Wisma Putra). The Director of Training Division IDFR, Mr. Syed Bakri Syed Abd Rahman delivered the closing speech to mark the end of the programme.



Reported by: Farah Dibah Abu Hanipah Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division Workshop on Drafting International Resolution



Workshop on Drafting International Resolution was conducted on 4 and 5 March 2015 at the Pacific Regency Hotel Suites, Kuala Lumpur. The workshop was attended by 16 researchers from Parliament Malaysia.

The two-day Workshop was requested by Parliament Malaysia with the main aim of sharing with the participants the aspects and elements in preparing and drafting international resolutions. This is to equip the participants with relevant knowledge, skills and information related to drafting resolutions as they would have to prepare drafts for some of the Malaysian parliamentarians who are representing the country internationally.

The Workshop was divided into three main modules, namely: Aspects and Elements in Drafting International Resolutions, conducted by YBhg. Tan Sri Hasmy Agam, Chairman of Human Rights Commission, Malaysia (SUHAKAM); Legal Matters Related to Drafting Resolutions, conducted by YBrs. Dr. Intan Murnira Ramli, Director of Advisory Project, Judicial and Legal Training Institute (ILKAP); and Sharing of Experience Session by YBhg. Dato' Hussin Nayan, Director General of IDFR.

All three speakers have in depth and profound experience, skills and knowledge in drafting international resolutions. They took the participants through a series of interactive lecture, group work, discussion and simulation exercises. Some examples of the adopted international resolutions were given to the participants to clarify the techniques, styles, format and language used in preparing and drafting

international resolutions. Exercises and examples given were on issues related to international relations, politics and economy.







Reported by: Romaiza Abd Rahman Training Division SPKM: Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses 1/2015



The first series of SPKM: Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses was held from 2 to 13 March 2015. The programme was attended by 67 officers ranging from grade 41 and above from various ministries and agencies with their spouses. The spouses were required to attend the first week of the programme.

The objectives of the programme were to increase the participants' knowledge and skills in diplomacy and international relations, to share with them about matters related to working at a Malaysia's Mission abroad, to prepare the officers and spouses for their varied functions and duties abroad, and to instill esprit de corps among them for effective performance at Missions.

The participants of the course went through a variety of interactive sessions with professionals from the public and private sectors, group discussions and experience sharing with those who have served in Malaysia's Missions abroad. The lecture sessions covered on topics such as Preparation for Living and Working Abroad, Malaysia's Foreign Policy, Reception and Official Entertaining, Royalty and Palace Protocol, Promoting Malaysia as a Tourist Destination, Ethics and Integrity, Media Skills and Public Diplomacy.

Two new modules were introduced in this series; sessions on Human Trafficking and Religious, Cultural dan Consular Matters Related to Death at Missions.

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



Reported by: Dzuita Mohamed Training Division MTCP: Diplomatic Training Course for International Participants 2015



The course was conducted from 23 February to 13 March 2015. The three-week course was attended by 19 diplomats, namely from, Botswana, Fiji, Georgia, Kyrgyz Republic, Lao PDR, Mexico, Myanmar, Tanzania, Togo, Tuvalu, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Zimbabwe and Malaysia.

The course aimed to provide knowledge and diplomatic skills in the conduct of diplomatic and foreign relations among the participants by sharing Malaysia's experience in managing its foreign policy and international relations. It also aimed to provide them with hands-on experience on areas related to diplomacy and international affairs. The course also served as a platform for networking and exchanging of views among the participants.

During the course, the participants went through an integrated teaching and learning methodology which included briefings, discussions, interactive lectures, simulations and exercises. Among the modules conducted were Introduction to Malaysia's Foreign Policy, Current International Relations and Global Issues, Public and International Law, Applied Psychology in Diplomacy and Language and Diplomacy. The participants were also taken to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia and the Parliament for onsite briefings.

In addition, the participants were introduced to Malaysia's state-level governance when they spent five days in the state of Terengganu. This module aimed to provide further understanding on the mechanism involves in Malaysia's governance system whereby the Federal and State Government play and share equal role and responsibility in developing the nation.

Reported by: Nik Nazarina Nek Mohamed Training Division Diplomacy and International Relations Module for PTD Cadets 2014 (Sidang AB and Sidang CD)



The Diplomacy and International Relations Module was conducted for two groups of PTD cadets in IDFR. Each group comprised of 61 participants. The five-day programme was designed and planned with the collaboration between Sub Cluster for Human Capital Development, National Institute of Public Administration (INTAN) and IDFR. The first group, Sidang A and B, was held from 9 to 13 February 2015, while the second group, Sidang C and D, was conducted from 23 to 27 February 2015.

The objectives of the module were to enhance knowledge of participants to the field of diplomacy and international relations; to provide an understanding of the role and functions of a diplomat and to provide an insight a and understanding on Malaysia's experience and perspective towards diplomacy and international relations issues.

The module included lectures related to Malaysia's Foreign Policy, Protocol Matters Related to Foreign Service, Roles and Function of Missions, ASEAN Chairmanship 2015, Consular Matters, Language and Diplomacy, Cross-Cultural Awareness, Dealing with the Media, Understanding Terrorism Threat, Malaysia's Non-Permanent Seat in UNSC 2015-2015, Public Speaking and Presentation Skills and also a Sharing Session with a Senior Diplomat.

The participants were also required to prepare an article review and presentation at the last day of the module. They were evaluated based on their ability to identify the areas of analysis, the use of sophistication in words and expressions used in communication, the originality of their ideas, their enthusiasm, pronunciation and gestures during presentation, as well as the overall evaluation on their writing and presentation skills.

Reported by: Dzuita Mohamed Training Division Economic Diplomacy Series 1/2015 - "The ASEAN Economic Community (AEC): Making the AEC a Success"



On 12 February 2015, the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR), World Trade Institute (WTI) and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) jointly organised a panel discussion under the Economic Diplomacy Series 1/2015 themed "The ASEAN Economic Community (AEC): Making the AEC a Success." The event was graced by YB Dato' Hamzah Zainudin, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia.

The panel consisted of a moderator YBhg. Dato' Muhamad Noor Yacob, Chairman Malaysia Automotive Institute and three panelists - YBhg. Datuk P. Ravidran, Senior Director of ASEAN Economic Cooperation Division, Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), YBhg. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sufian Jusoh, Distinguished Fellow of IDFR and Mr. Fahmi Rais, Founder of the Aspirant Group Singapore and TAG Global Communication Malaysia. The objective of this discourse was to share the various efforts undertaken by ASEAN and Malaysia as the chair for ASEAN in 2015 to promote and realize the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) 2015. It was also aimed at identifying the success factors and challenges to the AEC in its implementation of initiatives to achieve an ASEAN single market and production base, discuss opportunities and limitations for business and investing communities in leveraging on the AEC.

Datuk P. Ravidran as the first panelist gave an overview of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC). The AEC is one of the three pillars to achieve a cohesive ASEAN Community. The other two are political or security and social cultural pillars. AEC is made up of four important pillars – a single market and production base, a highly competitive economic competition region, a region of equitable economic development and a region fully integrated into the global economy.

Dr. Sufian Jusoh then spoke on the "ASEAN Economic Community: Views from the Ground." He focused on two main issues which are very important under AEC – Services and Investment. He concluded that

the awareness of AEC is still very low among member states and investors. Business organisations are seeking help from the government to communicate the mechanism of AEC and greater emphasis should be given to trade in services.

The third speaker was Mr. Fahmi Rais, a businessman who is thinking of expanding his business in ASEAN. He said that as an ASEAN business citizen, he wants to be able to tap on the nearest market and be able to receive more privileges and benefits as an ASEAN citizen setting up business in ASEAN member states. He also hopes that as he sets up business in other member states the political condition would remain stable and not deteriorate over time as this will affect his business.

Ninety participants attended this programme namely from the diplomatic corps, think tanks, government agencies and academics.



Reported by: Eminder Kaur Kawan Singh Regional and Security Studies Division Special Address on 'Reflections on Malaysia-Cuba Relations' by Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad



A Special Address by YABhg. Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad on 'Reflections on Malaysia-Cuba Relations' at the IKMAS High Level Public Lecture in commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of Bilateral Relations between Cuba and Malaysia was held on 9 February 2015 in Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Bangi. In his welcoming address, H.E. Ruben Perez Valdez, Cuban Ambassador to Malaysia expressed the hope that our current Prime Minister would visit Cuba. His Excellency further stated that the top priority of the Cuban Embassy in Malaysia is to establish people-to-people relations between Cuba and Malaysia. With regard to the bilateral relations, His Excellency maintained that different political systems have not hindered the good relations due to mutual respect and goodwill between the two countries.

In his Special Address, YABhg. Tun Dr. Mahathir said that the main reason our respective embassies were set up very much later after the establishment of diplomatic relations was because Malaysia adopted a pro-Western foreign policy immediately after independence. Nonetheless, during our second Prime Ministers tenure, he decided that Malaysia should widen its relations with countries other than the Commonwealths, including Communist countries such as the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China, and thus the self-explanatory establishment of diplomatic relations with Cuba 40 years ago. YABhg. Tun Dr. Mahathir emphasized that as a trading nation, Malaysia should continue to explore new markets and the Latin American countries is a case in point. He had tried to increase trade relations with Cuba during his tenure.

Organised by the Centre for Latin American Studies (iKAL) of IKMAS UKM in collaboration with the Cuba Embassy in Malaysia, the Public Lecture brought together diplomatic corps, government officers, academicians, researchers, students and journalists. IDFR was represented by Mrs. Zanariah Abdul Malek,

Deputy Director of the Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division and Ms. Lim Hui Chin, Assistant Director of the Office of Director General.





Reported by: Lim Hui Chin Office of Director General Book Launch: Malaysia-Singapore Fifty Years of Contentions 1965–2015 by Tan Sri Ab. Kadir Mohamad



Maritime Institute of Malaysia (MIMA) organised a book launch, Malaysia-Singapore Fifty Years of Contentions 1965–2015 by Tan Sri Ab. Kadir Mohamad at Double Tree Hotel, Kuala Lumpur on 4 February 2015. In the opening remarks by Vice Admiral Tan Sri Dato' Seri Ahmad Ramli Bin Haji Mohd Nor (Ret.), Chairman of MIMA, congratulated the author, Tan Sri Ab. Kadir Mohamad, who was a Former Secretary General of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia.

Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Former Prime Minister when launching the book "Malaysia-Singapore Fifty Years of Contentions 1965 – 2015" described it as an in-depth case study of the many troubling bilateral issues. Tun added that bilateral relations are more than any sum of events, agreements or negotiations but must be based on principles, such as frankness and mutual respect, consistency and stability, reliability and predictability.

Tan Sri Ab. Kadir hopes that this book will assist those dealing with international relations to reflect upon the past and help them manage the future effectively. According to him, this book is less analysis, more narrative and very easy to read. The 364-page book has nine chapters with 20 pages of pictures and illustrations.

Amongst the attendees at the event were representatives and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, government agencies and NGOs. IDFR was represented by Dato' Hussin Nayan, the Director General,

Ambassador Aminahtun Hj. A. Karim, the Deputy Director General and Mrs. Farah Dibah Abu Hanipah from Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division

Reported by: Farah Dibah Abu Hanipah Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division IDFR Welcome Students from the Virtue Foundation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand



On 29 January 2015, 28 students from the Virtue Foundation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand visited IDFR and the delegation was led by Ms. Chantipha Phutrakul, Director of the Virtue Foundation. The visit was organised in cooperation with the Royal Thai Embassy and the National Department for Culture and Arts, Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Malaysia.

The main objectives of the visit were to gain knowledge on Malaysian culture and to have a better understanding of the roles and functions of IDFR as well as to obtain an overview of the ASEAN Community development in Malaysia.

Mr. Syed Bakri Syed Abdul Rahman, the Director of Training, delivered the opening remarks during the briefing session. After a short introduction on IDFR and an ice breaking activity, Mr. Hesmel Fazree Ahamd Faisal, Assistant Director from the National Department for Culture and Arts, Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Malaysia briefed the students on Malaysian culture. Each student was also given a bag containing information pertaining to the ASEAN Community and the Malaysian culture. After the briefing, the students enthralled the guests with a delightful cultural performance of songs and dance.

Reported by: Nur Aqilah Mohd Subari Training Division Ethiopian Civil Service University (ECSU) Study Visit



On 28 January 2015, IDFR had hosted delegates from the Ethiopian Civil Service University (ECSU) as part of their visit to various public training institutions in the country to learn the best practices of the respective institutions.

The delegation comprised of five members led by Dr. Afework Hailemichael Abera, President of ECSU. In his briefing to the IDFR team, Dr. Afework gave a brief description of ECSU and its history. Prior to their visit to IDFR, ECSU visited the National Institute of Public Administration (INTAN) to learn about the public sector training conducted by INTAN. For training in the field of diplomacy and international relations, ECSU expressed their interest to learn more from IDFR on the organisation, training courses and other related matters. The session was very interactive where there were a lot of enquiries received from the delegates and also sharing of experiences between the session members.

Puan Hajjah Norani Ibrahim, IDFR's Special Projects Director chaired the session and representatives from each division were in attendance.

Reported by: Zanariah Abdul Malek Academic Studies, Research and Publication Division Roundtable Discussion on Extremism and Militancy with the Institute of South Asian Studies, Singapore



The Roundtable Discussion on Extremism and Militancy with the Institute of South Asian Studies, Singapore was held on 21 January 2015 at the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia. Quoting from E.H. Carr's 'What is History?', the first speaker, Ambassador Dr. Chowdhury highlighted the importance of causation in deliberating the extremism question. He also underscored the need to intellectually deradicalise and defang the extremist group. On the question of countering extremism or radicalism, he put forward several hopefully workable proposals which included enhancing strategic communication, strengthening criminal justice system, improving gender ratio of the workforce and recruitment drive, promoting the prominent role of regional and international organisations such as ASEAN and the United Nations, and changing existing twisted culture and values via academics and think tanks.

The second speaker, Dr. Elmira Akhmetova observed that extremism is widespread; existing throughout history and today it is "spreading like cancer in the Muslim World". She also asserted that the freedom of speech slogan chanted risked encouraging extremism and the Paris tragedy exemplified such. Dr. Akhmetova emphasised the importance of respect for different races or ethnic groups and their rights especially the minority rights in order to achieve and keep workable peace and stability which would benefit the whole world. Forty people attended the Roundtable Discussion included researchers, academicians, officials and former officials from the diplomatic corps, navy, Royal Malaysia Police, MITI, SEARCCT and IDFR. IDFR was represented by Major Mohd Ridzuan Hj Mohd Shariff, Senior Deputy Director of the Academic Studies, Research & Publication Division; Mr. Dev Kumar A/l Balakrishnan, Senior Deputy Director of the Regional and Security Studies Division; and Ms. Lim Hui Chin, Assistant Director of the Office of Director General.

Reported by: Lim Hui Chin Assistant Director of the Office of Director General



MiDAS Talk 10/2015: China's Neighbourhood Policy and ASIAN Security Architecture Building

Malaysia Institute of Defense and Security (MiDAS) organised a talk titled China's Neighbourhood Policy and ASIAN Security Architecture Building delivered by Prof. Yang Jiemian, Senior Fellow and Chairman of the Shanghai Institutes of International Studies (SIIS) Counsel of Academic Affairs on the 14 January 2015 at the Ministry of Defence Auditorium. The session was moderated by Lt. Gen Datuk Dr. William Stevenson, the Chief Executive Officer of MiDaS. In his opening remarks Lt. Gen Datuk mentioned that China and Malaysia had just celebrated the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relationship and that a solid diplomatic foundation has been established between the two countries.

Prof. Jiemian divided his speech into four parts; 40 years of bilateral relationship with Malaysia, China's Neighbourhood Policy; ASIAN Security Architecture and Opportunity and Challenges. He began by giving a brief history of how the Peoples' Republic of China (PRC) and Malaysia established diplomatic relationship 40 years ago when Malaysia's second Prime Minister, Tun Abdul Razak broke the ice of the Cold War and set foot in Beijing for a mission. He mentioned that the basic tenet of diplomacy with neighbors is to treat them as friends and partners, to make them feel safe and to help them develop. He said that China will work with ASEAN to hasten interconnectivity and establish a Silk Road Economic Belt and a Maritime Silk road for the 21st century. In October 2013, China held the first Neighbourhood Diplomatic Conference and proposed four ideas namely; Amity, Sincerity, Mutual benefits, and Inclusiveness. These ideas should be embraced first by China before it can be adopted by others in the Region.

Amongst the attendees at the event were representatives and officials from various ministries and government agencies and NGOs. IDFR was represented by Mrs. Sharizan Laily Shaharuddin and Ms. Eminder Kaur Kawan Singh.

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