



IDFR 2023

A N N U A L R E P O R T



IDFR Annual Report 2023

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Jalan Wisma Putra

50460 Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia

Website: www.idfr.gov.my

Email: info@idfr.gov.my

Facebook/Twitter/Instagram/TikTok/YouTube: @IDFRMalaysia

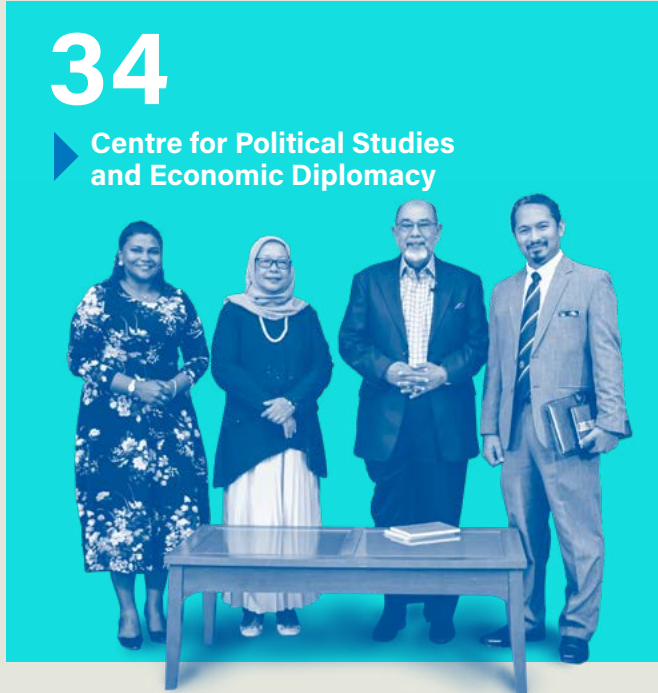
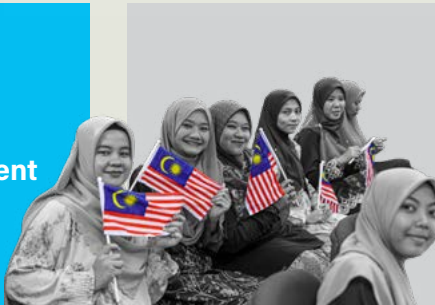
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MESSAGE

from the Secretary General
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia

DATO' SRI AMRAN MOHAMED ZIN

The world today has become interconnected more than ever. Some aspects of our lives have experienced change as a result"

I congratulate IDFR on achieving new milestones and accomplishments in 2023. Credit goes to the entire IDFR team, whose dedication and passion had made this possible. I look forward to IDFR's further successes in the coming years.

The world today has become interconnected more than ever. Some aspects of our lives have experienced change as a result. Like many other vocations, diplomatic agents have found themselves having to adapt to current realities. The evolution of the trade beyond traditional state-to-state interactions is one such change. There is now a sense that the traditional role of diplomats is eroding. Nevertheless, diplomats still hold a place as vital architects of dialogue, driving force for change and champions of inter-state cooperation. Against this backdrop, building the capacity of diplomats remains a necessity. IDFR's role, thus, is crucial to ensuring that Malaysian diplomats are well-prepared and well-positioned to face the ever-evolving global landscape.

I wish to put on note and highlight IDFR's two in-house publications launched in 2023 namely, 'Diplomacy Through the Pandemic' and 'Economic Diplomacy in Developing Asia'. These publications demonstrate IDFR's dedication to promoting intellectual discourse and making significant contributions to Malaysia's diplomatic and economic landscape. Moving ahead, IDFR should continue to produce enriching and thought-provoking publications and advocate exchange of ideas by organizing forums, lectures and roundtable discussions that contribute constructively to foreign policy discourse. As Malaysia gears up for its ASEAN Chairmanship in 2025, IDFR has a crucial role to play as one of Malaysian Government's mouthpiece in educating and explaining to the general public Malaysia's chairmanship direction and agenda.

I wish to record my appreciation to Dato' Dr. Shazelina for her contributions as IDFR's Director General throughout the last two years. I also wish Dato' Syed Bakri all the best as he takes over the mantle.



FOREWORD

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

I am pleased to present you the Annual Report for 2023 from the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR), providing a comprehensive overview of the programmes and activities conducted by the Institute over the past year."

DATO' SYED BAKRI SYED ABDUL RAHMAN

In the preceding year, IDFR exhibited remarkable resilience and unwavering dedication, conducting a total of 146 training programmes, lectures, publications, and research activities, in the realm of diplomacy and international relations. These initiatives engaged a diverse audience of 4,353 participants from both local and international spheres. The year 2023 stood out as a period marked by significant achievements.

To highlight some notable accomplishment, our annual flagship programme, the Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) 2023, was successfully completed in four months by a total of 18 Administrative and Diplomatic Service Officers (PTD). In furtherance of fostering women's participation in diplomacy, an international forum entitled "Women in Diplomacy: A Spectrum of Opportunities" was organised, with the support of the Embassy of Ireland in Malaysia and the United Nations in Malaysia, Singapore, and Brunei Darussalam. The forum saw an active participation from 100 foreign and local diplomatic practitioners.

The Institute had organised four IDFR Lecture Series, featuring Cultural Diplomacy and Distinguished Lecture Series, with discussions focusing on various topics ranging from "Good International Citizenship: The Case for Decency" to "When Elephants Fight, Will ASEAN Get Trampled?". The well-known speakers invited included Professor Emeritus Tan Sri Dato' Dzulkifli bin Abdul Razak, Professor Kishore Mahbubani, Her Excellency Frances Adamson AC, and Professor the Hon. Gareth Evans.

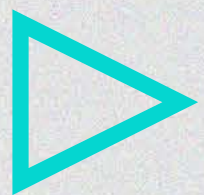
IDFR has notably expanded its educational portfolio by introducing new language courses, specifically in Korean and Mandarin, catering to the diverse linguistic needs of our participants. Furthermore,

we successfully executed specialised diplomatic training programmes tailored for Lao PDR, Timor Leste, and Iraq. Additionally, we hosted benchmarking visits for reputable diplomatic training institutes, namely Zimbabwe Foreign Service Institute (ZFSI) and Foreign Service Training Institute of Ghana with a view to fostering international collaboration and facilitating knowledge exchange between institutes.

These accomplishments underscore IDFR's commitment towards excellence and innovation in advancing diplomatic education. As we reflect on these achievements and chart the course for the future, the Institute remains dedicated to its mission of equipping officers in taking on the vagaries of diplomacy and international relations in their respective careers. Moving forward to 2024, IDFR will prioritise continuous improvement in our core business; namely training programmes, research, publication, and consultations.

I also wish to take this opportunity to extend my sincerest congratulations to the newly appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, YB Dato' Seri Utama Haji Mohamad Haji Hasan, and special thanks to YB Deputy Minister, Datuk Mohamad Alamin, and the Secretary General, Dato' Sri Amran Mohamed Zin for their unwavering support to IDFR. Last but not least, I convey my appreciation to the relevant personalities in the field of diplomacy and foreign relations for their invaluable contributions to IDFR's programmes and achievements.

My heartfelt gratitude goes out to each and every one of the officers and staff for their invaluable contributions, steadfast commitment, efforts and cooperation in executing their duties and responsibilities. With this collective support, I am confident IDFR will continue to thrive as a Centre of Excellence in diplomacy and foreign relations.



OVERVIEW

OVERVIEW



The Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations, or IDFR, functions as the training arm of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia. Established in July 1991, IDFR originating from a basic training module for Malaysia's diplomats to a comprehensive training establishment with a mixed cadre of trainers, administrators, and led by a senior diplomat.

IDFR also extends courses to officers and staff from other ministries and government agencies. Our core objective is to provide the participants with pertinent proficiency, resources and skills to competently portray Malaysia on the global platform. Furthermore, IDFR holds the responsibility to train foreign officials in matters related to diplomatic skills, practices, and international relations.

IDFR's flagship programmes include the following:

- a) **Diploma in Diplomacy** – an intensive four-month course designated for junior Malaysian diplomats, preparing them for their first assignment to Malaysian Missions overseas. The course modules cover bilateral and multilateral facets of international relations, ASEAN, protocol, negotiations, public diplomacy, foreign languages, and administration and finance;
- b) **Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP)** – training courses provided to international participants through the scope of the MTCP. These courses include areas of diplomatic training, strategic analysis, and crisis management; and
- c) **Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses under the Sistem Pentadbiran Kerajaan Malaysia (SPKM) di Luar Negeri** – catered for officers from other ministries who are about to be posted abroad.

On occasion, IDFR course participants, students and trainees have distinct opportunities to attend seminars, workshops, and roundtable discussions. They also get the chance to gain insights from notable scholars and global leaders through keynote addresses and lectures. Notable personalities like UN Secretaries General, Kofi Annan and Ban Ki-moon, Haris Siladzjic (Bosnia), Lee Hsien Loong (Singapore), Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah (Brunei Darussalam), Helen Clark (UNDP Chief Administrator), Benazir Bhutto

(Pakistan), Yassir Arafat (Palestine), and Nelson Mandela (South Africa) have delivered distinguished lectures at IDFR.

As one of the agencies under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia, IDFR's strategic direction is designed to align with the Ministry's objectives. IDFR is committed to deliver top-notch training programmes and produce pre-eminent diplomats who will promote Malaysia's interests nationally and internationally.



SUMMARY OF IDFR'S ACHIEVEMENT

SUMMARY OF EVENTS 2023


TOTAL PROGRAMMES

139


47
 VIRTUAL
 


5
 HYBRID
 

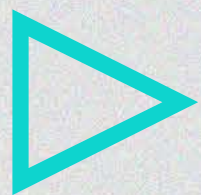

87
 PHYSICAL
 


TOTAL PARTICIPANTS
4353



TOTAL PUBLICATIONS
7



THE IDFR TEAM

Director General

Centre for Political Studies and Economic Diplomacy



▶ **Dato' Syed Mohamad Bakri Syed Abdul Rahman**

▶ **Not in the picture:**
Dato' Dr Shazelina Zainul Abidin
(until September 2023)
Ms Idayu Syima Mohd Saleh
(until September 2023)

▶ **Seated (from left to right):**
Ms Noraziah Omar
Mr Harvinder Singh Ramday
Ms Intan Marzueani Dato' Mohamad Nor

▶ **Standing (from left to right):**
Mr Mohd Sha'arie Amran
Ms Aida Yasmin Azhar
Mr Ahmad Khidir Lemin
Ms Jasmine Mohamed Jawhar
Mr Ahmad Muziru Idham Adnan
Ms Norazlin Mohd Tahir
Ms Hanun Insyirah Ishak

▶ **Not in the picture:**
Ms Nuryante Mohd Yazid
(until November 2023)
Mr Mohamad Ika Danial Abdullah
(until December 2023)
Ms Raja Nur Izza Shazzira Raja Muda
(until December 2023)
Ms Jamnatul Ain Sarani

Centre for Leadership, Negotiation and Public Diplomacy



Seated (from left to right):

Ms Siti Noor 'Aini Hassan
Dato' Agus Salim Yusof (Director)
Ms Hasnah Mohd Sharif



Standing (from left to right):

Ms Dayang Jariah Johari
Ms Nurfarhana Abdul Manan
Ms Suhaiza Sabri
Ms Nur Farhah Nayli Sharil Azman
Ms Manishahz Sangkar
Ms Norlela Samad
Ms Farah Dhiba Ahmed @ Salleh



Not in the picture:

Ms Zalina Abdul Razak
(until February 2023)

Mr Muhammad Danial Arif Moerdanny
(until April 2023)

Amb. Hamizan Hashim
(until November 2023)

Centre for Competency Enhancement



Seated (from left to right):

Mr Ahmad Faizal Hilmi Mohammad Shahrul Hashri
Dato' Westmoreland Edward Palon (Director)
Ms Nurul Adni Zainul Ariff



Standing (from left to right):

Ms Nazirah Nazaruddin
Mr Haslil Hadi Amir Hasan
Mr Roslan Kamarudin
Ms Nur Fazlina Basiron
Ms Saffa Haninie Mohd Rodzi



Not in the picture:

Major Hadzrie Abdul Khan (until January 2023)
Ms Efy Evita Anak Chalilina (until January 2023)
Mr Muhammad Imran Muhamad Sedek (until March 2023)
Mr Mohd Azhari Latif @ Abdul Latif (until May 2023)
Mr Usamah Zulkifli (until June 2023)
Ms Nur Farhanah Shazwani Roslan (until August 2023)
Mr Theventhiran Arumugam (until December 2023)
Mr Aiman Haikal Abdul Rahman (until December 2023)

Centre for Languages and Cultural Diplomacy



Seated (from left to right):

Ms Sithira Devi A/P Govindan
Ms Nur Adiba Shuaib
Ms Nik Khalilah Nik Ab. Kadir
Ms Afida Ibrahim



Standing (from left to right):

Ms Haliyath Zahiyah Haji Kamal Mustaffa
Mr Muslim Hanafi Mohd Jalis
Mr Haris Syarwani Razali
Dr Raihan Dato' Dr. Marzuki
Ms Siti Norliza Juri
Mr Khairul Kamal Abdul Rahman
Mr Wan Ahmad Mursyid Wan Mohd Azri



Not in the picture:

Amb. Ruzaimi Mohamad (until February 2023)
Ms Noraini Awang Nong (until March 2023)
Ms Siti Adawiyah Basirun (until March 2023)
Ms Siti Aisyah Mohd Ali (until June 2023)
Mr Suresh Kumar A/L Rengasamy (until October 2023)
Ms Siti Hazirah Mohd Rosdi (until December 2023)
Ms Faridah Mohd Arip

Management Services Division



From left to right:

Amb. Sarimah Akbar (Director)
Ms Nik Latifah Mohd. Zaki

Library Section



Seated (from left to right):

Ms Wardah Sina
Ms Khalisah Ikhwana Jauharul Afrah



Standing (from left to right):

Ms Roslina Haroun @ Haron
Ms Sofiazi Abdul Rahman
Mr Sarathraj A/L Selvaju
Mr Sharif Lobo Butup



Not in the picture:

Ms Gurnam Kaur A/P Hari Singh (until March 2023)
Ms Iliza Ismail (until June 2023)
Mr Ahmad Yani Kamaruddin (until June 2023)
Mr Muhammad B. Abdullah (until July 2023)
Ms Nor Hidayah Othman (until November 2023)
Mr Sukma Saripuddin (until November 2023)

ICT Section



Seated (from left to right):

Mr Mohd Shakhizam Che Ahmad
Ms Wdh Hanum Dollah
Ms Badriyah Johari



Standing (from left to right):

Ms Zuliana Daud
Mr Muhamad Faiz Suhaimi
Mr Mohammad Fitri Ghazali
Ms Nur Idayu Abdullah

Corporate Affairs Section



Seated (from left to right):

Mr Mohd Issammuddin Sayuti
Ms Shanthini A/P Subramaniam



Standing (from left to right):

Ms Zulaikha Abdul Hamid Soon
Ms Dzuaita Mohamed
Ms Hanriyani Sahmawi



Not in the picture:

Ms Nurul Syaznee Zulkiflee
(until December 2023)

Ms Nicole Cheah Zi Qing
(until March 2024)

Finance Section

**Seated (from left to right):**

Ms Mazulina Mat Jusoh
Ms Siti Haira Jaafar

**Standing (from left to right):**

Ms Nurnadia Abu Kassim
Ms Nur Syahirah Md Sallim
Ms Amirah Nurulain Suhaimi

**Not in the picture:**

Ms Jamaliah Jaafar
(until September 2023)

Mr Shah Rizal Mohd Salleh
(until September 2023)

Ms Nor Asikin Zahari
Mr Muhammad Hazrul Nazran Abdul Hadi

Human Resource Section

**From left to right:**

Ms Aadela Melati Ahmad Termizi
Mr Amiruddin Zaidi
Ms Filza Syahida Md Jamal
Ms Noor Faizatul Haida Abdul Halim

**Not in the picture:**

Mr Mohd. Aderin Azi Mohd Uzir
(passed on January 2023)

Ms Nur Ain Azmira Abu Seman
(until February 2023)

Mr Amirul Khairi Mustafa Bakri
(until August 2023)

Ms Siti Zulaikha Mohd Nasir
(until December 2023)

Administration



Seated (from left to right):

Ms Fadilah Shahri
Mr Mohd. Fairuz Asraf Ismail
Ms Nora Tukirin
Mr Mohd Syaifulludin Mahamad Ayub
Ms Norhashikin Hassan
Mr Muhamad Syahfie Md Saleh



Standing (from left to right):

Mr Zaimi Ahmad
Mr Raimi Amzar Zamali
Ms Nurul Izatul Hidayah Abdul Razak
YM Raja Azrin Raja Azman
Mr Muhammad Shahrir Shah Rom
Mr Alif Anaz Nazaruddin
Mr Anuar Hafizi Adnan
Mr Ahmad Schafril Maslam
Mr Azrul Nizam Abdul Rahim



Not in the picture:

Mr Mohd. Ridzuan Amri
(until February 2023)
Mr Muhammad Izzuddin
(until June 2023)
Ms Cornelia Chin Siew Ling
(until July 2023)
Ms Nur Hafizza Bahrin
(until August 2023)
Mr Hamezy Ab Muai

Driver Team



From left to right:

Mr Abdul Halim Ghazali
Mr Rozaidi Abdul Razak
Mr Nazli Thajudin

Security Team



From left to right:

Mr Muhd. Jaafar Abd Karim
Mr Mohd Wan Hafiz Wan Muda
Mr Erdee Azreen Abdul Malik
Mr Mohamad Fahmi Kamarudin



Not in the picture:

Mr Wan Marzuki Wan Mohamad
(until September 2023)

Mr Mohd Zul Aiman Zainal Abidin
Mr Mohd Saiful Anuar Yusof
Mr Mohamad Najib Zulkifly
Mr Muhamad Ridzuan Basarudin
Mr Mohd Azrul Effendy Shamsudin
Mr Muhamad Shukri Fauzi

▶
**CENTRE FOR
POLITICAL
STUDIES AND
ECONOMIC
DIPLOMACY**

CENTRE FOR POLITICAL STUDIES AND ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY

The Centre for Political Studies and Economic Diplomacy (PSED) focuses its training and publications on areas of diplomacy, international relations, security, as well as bilateral, multilateral, political, economic and trade relations. The Centre also conducts programmes under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) on subjects related to political studies and economic diplomacy. Additionally, the Centre organises intellectual discourses on relevant topical issues through IDFR Lecture Series.

Aside from training programmes, the Centre manages the biannual publication titled *Foreign Relations*, an impartial writing platform where articles are written by highly knowledgeable and experienced practitioners in the field of diplomacy and international relations. Furthermore, PSED publishes the IDFR 'Let's Talk' series, a talk show featuring subject-matter experts in the area of international relations.

Crisis Management and Preparedness Programme

The Crisis Management and Preparedness programme is a training programme to equip Malaysian civil service officials with the knowledge and skills in managing crises more effectively and efficiently while serving abroad. Among the modules conducted in the course were *Introduction*

to Conflicts and Crises; Tipping Points; Role of National Security Council (MKN) and National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA) During Crisis Abroad; Managing Documents and Government Assets; Effective Communication During a Crisis; Fleeing a Mission; as well as *Role of Diplomats When Serving Abroad*. The third day involved a crisis simulation at IDFR where participants were required to evacuate a Mission located in a country in crisis.



Crisis Management and Preparedness Programme

Two series were conducted in 2023. The first was conducted from 14 to 16 March 2023. It was attended by a total of 13 officers from various ministries and agencies including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia, Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS), Malaysian External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE), Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA), Tourism Malaysia, and Royal Malaysian Customs Department

(JKDM). Following the pilot programme in November 2022, this is the first series which included participants from other ministries and agencies, apart from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia.

The second series was conducted for participants of the Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD). It was held on 6, 7 and 11 September 2023. Thirteen junior officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia and Prime Minister's Department took part in the programme.

Let's Talk: Foreign Policy Challenges in 2023

Let's Talk series is a talk show that discusses current topics of diplomacy and international relations. *Let's Talk: Foreign Policy Challenges in 2023* was recorded on 13 April 2023 and aired on IDFR's official YouTube Channel in June 2023. In this episode, three experts analysed current foreign policy issues and challenges faced by Malaysia as well as the country's

foreign policy agenda in relation to Malaysia MADANI. The panellists invited were former Foreign Minister of Malaysia, Tan Sri Dr Syed Hamid Albar; former Member of Parliament for Batu Kawan, Ms Kasthuriraani Patto; and Professor at the Department of Strategic Studies, National Defence University of Malaya (UPNM), Professor Hajah Ruhanas Harun. The session was moderated by Mr Shahril Nizam Abdul Malek, Principal Assistant Secretary, Southeast Asia Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia.



Let's Talk: Foreign Policy Challenges in 2023

Scan the QR code to
access to the video

Workshop on Southeast Asia in A World of Strategic Competition: Assessing Agency and Options (IDFR-UKM-USIP)

Southeast Asia has long been a strategic stage for major power rivalries. Against this backdrop, IDFR co-organised an international workshop with Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) and the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) titled, *Southeast Asia in a World of Strategic Competition: Assessing Agencies and Options* from 21 to 22 June 2023.

The Workshop discussed the impact of strategic competition between the United States and China on Southeast Asia and how countries in the region navigate the

changing power dynamics in Asia. It also analysed how Member States of ASEAN can together manage these challenges more effectively. A Policy Roundtable was held as a closed-door session, where two guest speakers, Y.M. Dato' Raja Nushirwan Zainal Abidin, Director-General of National Security Council; and YB Liew Chin Tong, the then Deputy Minister of International Trade and Industry Malaysia (MITI), spoke on relevant policies in relation to the strategic competition in the region.

A total of 20 participants from Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam attended the Workshop. Malaysia was represented by several ministries and agencies, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia, National Security Council, and the Prime Minister's Department.

IDFR Distinguished Lecture Series 1/2023: Professor Kishore Mahbubani

The first IDFR Distinguished Lecture Series on 6 July 2023, featured the renowned Professor Kishore Mahbubani. The lecture titled, *When Elephants Fight, Will ASEAN Get Trampled?*, was held at the IDFR Auditorium with the attendance of 188 participants from various organisations, including diplomatic corps, government officials, corporate leaders, and members of academia from think tanks and universities. Twenty officers from Malaysian Missions abroad have also joined the lecture online.

Professor Mahbubani, a Distinguished Fellow at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, shared insights from his 33 years of diplomatic experience with the Singapore Foreign Service. Notable career milestones include serving as Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore's Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UN), and President of the UN Security Council.

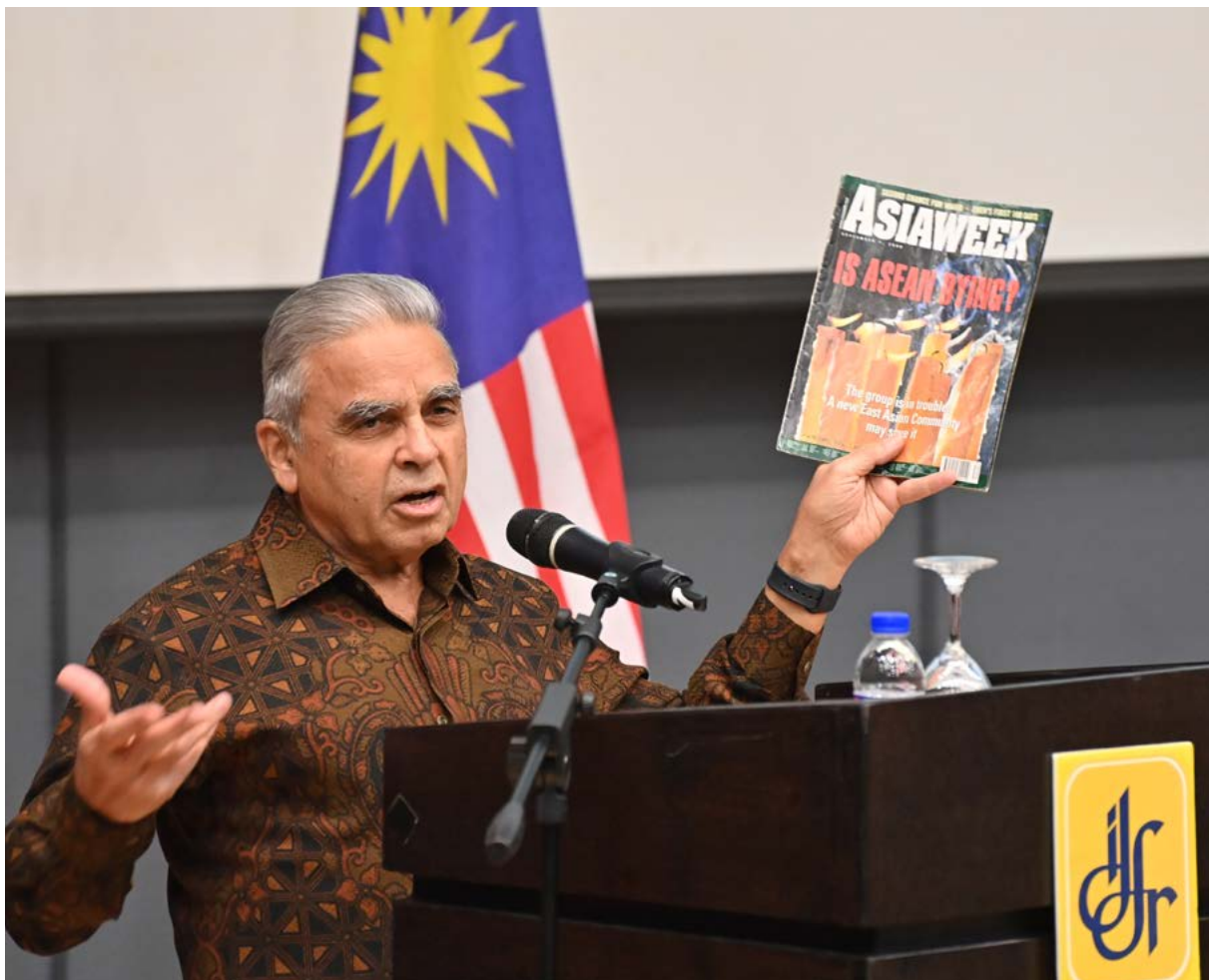
The event commenced with a welcoming remark by Dato' Dr Shazelina Zainul Abidin, Director General of IDFR, and was moderated by Dato Dr Ilango Karuppannan, Adjunct Professor at University Malaya and also former Malaysia's High Commissioner to Singapore.

In the one-hour talk, Professor Mahbubani delved into the geopolitical tensions between the United States and China, emphasising ASEAN's crucial role amid this great power competition. He likened ASEAN to a valuable Ming vase, highlighting its economic growth, global FDI, and growing trade relations with the US and China. Despite speculations about ASEAN's lifespan, Professor Mahbubani noted its resilience compared to other regional organisations.

Describing "the elephants" as the US-China rivalry, he pointed out the absence of a common narrative, highlighting

that the contest affects every country differently. Professor Mahbubani attributed the contest to the iron law of geopolitics, asserting that no great power willingly relinquishes its top position.

Emphasising the precious value of ASEAN, he warned against its potential destruction in the geopolitical competition. Professor Mahbubani concluded by urging attention to the two elephants, stating, "it is very important for us to understand how precious ASEAN is because they are about to destroy something precious to us."



Professor Kishore Mahbubani

MTCP: Diplomatic Training Course for International Participants

This year, the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP): Diplomatic Training Course for International Participants was conducted in a face-to-face format again following the post-COVID pandemic. The course, held from 23 July to 1 August 2023, brought together fifteen diplomats from Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei, Cambodia, Fiji, Ghana, Kazakhstan, Laos, Maldives, Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines, Senegal, Sri Lanka, and Türkiye in Kuala Lumpur.

Over the ten-day duration, participants gained practical exposure to diplomacy in Malaysia and valuable insights into diplomatic skills and foreign relations. The training sessions, conducted at IDFR and in collaboration with the International Cooperation and Development Division (ICADD) at Wisma Putra, covered modules such as Malaysia's Foreign

Policy; Bilateral and Multilateral Diplomacy Practices; *Malaysia and ASEAN*; *Crisis Management*; *Economic Diplomacy*; *Role of Public Diplomacy in Foreign Policy*; *Strategic Leadership and Management for Officers*; *Media Relations and Skills*; *International Negotiations*; *Futurist Thinking*; and *Protocol Practices and Diplomatic Etiquette*. Each session featured distinguished speakers from the diplomatic corps, serving officers, subject matter experts, and academia.

The participants also explored Malaysia through various study visits, including the Kuala Lumpur Craft Complex, Kuala Lumpur City Centre, Heritage Trail around Central Market and Merdeka Square, Cultural Show at the Malaysia Tourism Centre (MATIC), and a session on *Malaysian Cultural Delicacies*. Additionally, visits to administrative centres in Putrajaya and landmarks such as Putrajaya International Convention Centre and Putrajaya Mosque, along with a state visit to Malacca, provided insights into the country's development and historical background.



MTCP: Diplomatic Training Course for International Participants

A certificate presentation ceremony was held on the last day, marking the successful completion of the course. Notable attendees included H.E. Abdoulaye Barro (Ambassador of Senegal), H.E. Air Chief Marshal Dabare Liyanage Sumangala Dias (High Commissioner of Sri Lanka), H.E. Ali Hussain Didi (High Commissioner of the Republic of Maldives), H.E. Irfan

Davudov (Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Azerbaijan), and Minister Luis Enrique Verti (Chargé d'affaires of the Embassy of Mexico in Malaysia), along with representatives from various embassies celebrating the participants' achievements.

Foreign Policy Discussed 1: Navigating Malaysia's Relations with Türkiye and Saudi Arabia

Foreign Policy Discussed is a roundtable discussion aimed at analysing bilateral and multilateral relations issues relevant to Malaysia's foreign policy. The first Foreign Policy Discussed titled, *Navigating Malaysia's Relations with Türkiye and Saudi Arabia* was held on 29 August 2023 via Google Meet. Among the panellists were Assoc. Prof. Dr Syaza Farhana Mohamad Shukri, Head of Department, Department of Political Science, IIUM, Datuk Dr Hamzah Kassim, Member of Consultative Council for Foreign Policy (CCFP), and Datuk Zahairi Baharim, Undersecretary, West Asia Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs as the Discussant. The discussion began with a welcoming remark from the former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia, The Hon. Dato' Seri Diraja Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir. He hoped for more discussions between subject matter experts and diplomatic practitioners pertaining to relevant bilateral and multilateral issues with interest to Malaysia's foreign policy.

Dr Hamzah highlighted five challenges in Malaysia's relations with Türkiye and Saudi Arabia: political change and leadership transition; big power competition; domestic priorities and global engagement; geopolitical and regional differences; and disruptive technologies, which are the next battle for economic and political supremacy. The speaker proposed enhancing Malaysia's ties with Türkiye and Saudi Arabia through multilateral organisations, collaboration with Gulf think tanks, effective public-private partnership coordination, and active involvement in resolving conflicts in Muslim minority countries.

Datuk Zahairi as the discussant underlined the importance of recognising the recent Saudi Arabia-Türkiye political alignment, emphasising their focus on Asia for economic development. He advocated for Malaysia to adopt strategic policies, urging significant shifts in perspectives and approaches. Emphasising the involvement of think tanks and institutions, he also stressed the necessity of moving beyond traditional government-to-government diplomacy for effective engagement in this evolving development for both relations.

A total of 23 participants joined the discussion, including The Hon. Deputy Foreign Minister, the Malaysian

Ambassador to Türkiye, Malaysian Consul Generals in Jeddah and Istanbul and the senior officials in Wisma Putra.

Training of Trainers: Crisis Simulation

The Training of Trainers: Crisis Simulation programme was specifically designed to train ten IDFR and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia officials in creating effective crisis simulation for IDFR's Crisis Management and Preparedness programme. An international expert from

the International Crisis Management Conference (ICMC) was selected as the trainer for the programme.

The curriculum included *Pre-Simulation Planning; Scenario and Exercise Design; and Exercise Delivery and Evaluation*, among others. The programme was held from 11 to 14 September 2023 in Kuala Lumpur.

Diplomatic Training Programme for Timor-Leste Participants

Under the trilateral cooperation between Malaysia, Australia, and Timor-Leste, the Diplomatic Training Programme for Timor-Leste Participants was held from 18 to 22 September 2023, in partnership with the ASEAN-Malaysia National Secretariat (AMNS). The goal of this specialised programme was to provide capacity-building assistance for Timor-Leste towards its readiness for ASEAN membership. The programme drew 14 participants consisting of Timor-Leste diplomats and government executives from several ministries.

In five days, the programme covered various classroom lectures, engaging discussions, simulation exercises and multiple study visits. The participants delved further into ASEAN processes and mechanisms through sessions with the ASEAN-Malaysia National Secretariat (AMNS) regarding ASEAN Relations,

International Negotiations in ASEAN and Experience Sharing Session with AMNS. They also had an exclusive session with the Australian High Commission on the Role of Australia as ASEAN Dialogue Partner, as well as a joint session featuring an expert from Australian Defence Department and National Defence University of Malaysia respectively to discuss ADMM-ADMM Plus Mechanisms.

The participants had the privilege of networking with senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia, Australian High Commission, as well as the ASEAN Embassies in Kuala Lumpur at dinner receptions. The participants were also given the opportunity to explore administrative centres and notable landmarks in Putrajaya. While in Kuala Lumpur, they visited the iconic Kuala Lumpur Tower and Heritage Trail around Central Market and Merdeka Square, as well as Kuala Lumpur Craft Complex where they were introduced to local Small Medium Enterprise handicraft and arts production for small states.

The programme concluded with a Closing and Certificate Presentation Ceremony, graced by H.E. Joana Veneranda Amaral (Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste), Ms. Clare Gatehouse (Political and Economic Counsellor, Australian High Commission), and Mr. Mohd Suhaimi Ahmad Tajuddin (Deputy Director-General, ASEAN Economic

Community Division, ASEAN-Malaysia National Secretariat). All participants were presented with certificates of participation by Ms. Nuryante Mohd Yazid (Director, Centre for Political Studies and Economic Diplomacy, IDFR), symbolising the successful completion of a comprehensive and exciting diplomatic training programme.



Diplomatic Training Programme for Timor-Leste Participants

Book Launch: *Diplomacy Through the Pandemic and Economic Diplomacy for Developing Asia*

On 26 September 2023, IDFR marked the launch of two significant in-house publications at EQ Hotel Kuala Lumpur. The ceremony was graced by The Hon. Datuk Mohamad Alamin, Deputy Foreign Minister of Malaysia, adding prestige to the occasion. A total of 120 attendees, including distinguished authors, diplomatic corps, government

officials, and members of academia from think tanks and universities, gathered to celebrate this intellectual milestone. Furthermore, 17 serving officers from Malaysian Missions joined virtually through Google Meet, underscoring the broad reach and significance of the publications.

As the training arm of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia, IDFR actively contributes to the discourse on Malaysia's foreign policy and international issues through its publications. The first of the two publications, *Diplomacy Through the Pandemic*, takes a unique approach by gathering insights from top-notch

Malaysian diplomats who share their experiences and journeys in navigating the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic while serving abroad. Edited by Dato' Dr Shazelina Zainul Abidin, the book is not merely a collection of stories, but a carefully curated portrayal of the daily realities faced by diplomats during the pandemic. The book is divided into regional chapters, shedding light on the varied experiences and resource constraints, such as lockdowns and limited resources, faced by diplomats at their respective posts. In essence, it serves as a commendable compilation of narratives that offer a nuanced understanding of the diplomatic challenges posed by the global health crisis.

Shifting focus to the second publication, *Economic Diplomacy in Developing Asia*, authored by Professor Sufian Jusoh, emerges as a timely and relevant

addition to the discourse on Malaysia and the broader Asian region. Professor Sufian, a highly respected figure in the realm of international trade and economy, brings extensive experience in policy development and consultation programmes at both government and non-governmental levels. Although the stringent pandemic measures posed challenges to a conventional launch in 2021, the book remains a substantial contribution to the national economic discourse. It particularly resonates with practitioners and policymakers, providing valuable insights into the intricacies of economic diplomacy in the context of developing Asia. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, these publications stand as a testament to IDFR's commitment to fostering intellectual discourse and contributing meaningfully to Malaysia's diplomatic and economic landscape.

Foreign Policy Discussed 2: Malaysia's Position Between Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)

The second Foreign Policy Discussed titled, *Malaysia's Position Between Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)* was held on 17 October 2023 via Google Meet. Among the panellists were Dr Intan Murnira

Ramli, Senior Policy Fellow of Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Professor Dr Sufian Jusoh, Director of Institute of Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS), and Mr Riaz Abdul Razak, Director of ASEAN Economic Community, ASEAN-Malaysia National Secretariat, Ministry of Foreign Affairs as the Discussant.

During the discussion, Dr Intan Murnira Ramli compared RCEP and IPEF, highlighting the similarities and contrasts between the two international trade agreements. She also addressed the obstacles and benefits for countries participating in IPEF and RCEP, as well as member countries' concerns about their involvement in the FTA. The solutions proposed include the need for

policymakers to ensure that the benefits of international trade are shared by all Malaysians, and the effectiveness of rules to allow international trade while maintaining our standards. Dr Intan said that as a country participating in both agreements, Malaysia can benefit from IPEF and RCEP while proactively minimising the problems.

Prof. Dr Sufian Jusoh discussed the background of IPEF, which is seen as a US economic competitiveness strategy against China in the Pacific region. In terms of trade arrangements with member countries, he believes that IPEF offers the same benefits as RCEP. Therefore, he suggested that Malaysia should take the opportunity to promote the country's products, especially palm oil, to expand its market with foreign countries and establish close cooperation between international industries, especially in improving the protection of the digital economy.

As a discussant, Mr Riaz Abdul Razak emphasised that Malaysia's participation in the FTA is not new, rather it is something familiar. Malaysia has been significantly involved in FTAs to enhance economic and trade integration, particularly in the Southeast Asian region. Malaysia's participation in IPEF and RCEP is seen as aligned with the country's foreign policy objectives of strengthening regional cooperation and multilateralism. Meanwhile, Malaysia's involvement in IPEF and RCEP is expected to stimulate discussions on the two new areas to be explored: clean energy and digital economy.

A total of 45 participants joined the discussion which involved the senior officials in Wisma Putra to discuss ways to strengthen Malaysia's foreign policy at the international level.



Foreign Policy Discussed 2

Diplomatic Training Programme for Iraqi Participants

The Diplomatic Training Programme for Iraqi Participants, held from 22 to 31 October 2023, marked a successful collaboration between Malaysia and Iraq and a testament to their robust partnership initiated during the August visit of Malaysia's Foreign Minister, The Hon. Dato' Seri Diraja Dr Zambry Abd Kadir. The ten-day programme covered crucial diplomatic topics aligned with Iraq's foreign ministry interests, featuring experienced speakers from Wisma Putra and other experts. A courtesy call on The Hon. Dato' Seri Diraja Dr Zambry Abd Kadir by the participants was one of the programme's highlights, fostering closer Malaysia-Iraq relations.

The diverse modules included sessions on *Narrative Framing, Presentation Skills, Diplomatic Etiquette, Government Service Integrity, Public Diplomacy, Social Media's Role, Counter-Terrorism, and International*

Negotiations. Networking sessions with various ministries and agencies, including Foreign Affairs, MITI, MATRADE, MOTAC, and SEARCCT, also enhanced the participants' exposure.

Beyond the classroom activities, the participants delved into Malaysia's foreign policies, institutions, cultures, and values through visits to key locations like Wisma Putra, MITI, MATRADE, Putrajaya, Kuala Lumpur Craft Complex, Malaysia Tourism Centre, and iconic landmarks such as the PETRONAS Twin Towers and KL Tower.

The Closing and Certificate Presentation Ceremony concluded the programme with the presence of key figures, including Dato' Syed Mohamad Bakri Syed Abdul Rahman (Director General of IDFR) and spouse, Mdm. Ghada Abduljabbar Dawi (Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Republic of Iraq), Dato' Sri Naresh Mohan (Ramada Hotel's Group CEO, Trinidad Holdings), and Ms. Nuryante Mohd Yazid (Director, Centre for Political Studies and Economic Diplomacy, IDFR).



Participants paid a courtesy call on the Foreign Minister of Malaysia

PUBLICATIONS

Let's Talk Newsletter

Let's Talk Newsletter serves as an extension to the discussion during the Let's Talk series. There were two volumes of the *Let's Talk Newsletter in 2023: Volume 5 - Let's Talk: Cyber Security and Cyber Diplomacy* and *Volume 6 - Let's Talk: Multilateralism and Food Security*.

The *Let's Talk: Cyber Security and Cyber Diplomacy* newsletter features three articles, namely *Cyber Security: Securing Our Digital Borders Through Cyber Diplomacy* by a participant of DiD 1/2022, Mr Adli Amirul Hisyam Mohd Yusof; *Cyber Diplomacy: Malaysia's Virtual Border* by a PhD candidate in Cyber Security at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Mr Tajul Azhar Mohd Tajul Ariffin; and *Cyber*

Diplomacy: Mitigating Tensions in the World of Technology by a participant of DiD 1/2022, Mr Theventhiran Arumugam.

Meanwhile, the *Let's Talk: Multilateralism and Food Security* also includes three articles, namely *Reform of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) - A Perspective* by participants of DiD 1/2022, Ms Alya Elyda Shamsul, Ms Izzati Aisyah Adnan, Ms Noor Amaleena Khairul Azmar and Mr Umaabati Chandrasekaram; *Food Security in Malaysia* by Fellow at the Institute of Tropical Agriculture and Food Security, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Professor Datin Paduka Dr Fatimah Mohamed Arshad; and *Food Security in a Rich Resources State* by Deputy Rector of Academic Affairs and Senior Lecturer in Political Economy at MARA Technological University (UiTM) Sabah, Dr Firdausi Suffian.

Foreign Relations

Foreign Relations is an impartial writing platform prepared specifically for articles in the form of opinions and views on various international relations issues, aimed to influence foreign policy decisions. It is a publication written by influencers, persons with highly specialised knowledge and a wealth of experience in the areas of international relations.

The theme for Volume 2/2023 is *Law in International Relations* which focuses on the avenues that international law provides to address the mounting security challenges confronting the world today. Among prominent authors for this volume are former Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia, Tan Sri Abdul Kadir Mohamad, former High Court Judge of Malaya and Borneo (now

Sabah and Sarawak), Dato' Syed Ahmad Idid Syed Abdullah Idid, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Poland, H.E. Dato' Chitra Devi Ramiah, among others. Meanwhile, the theme for Volume 3/2023 is *Death of Multilateralism?* which explores the relevance of multilateralism today and the future it holds for a more just and peaceful world. Among the notable contributors for this volume are High Commissioner of India to Malaysia, H.E. B.N. Reddy, former High Commissioner of Malaysia to Singapore, Dato' Dr Ilango Karuppanan, former Member of the UN Secretary General's Scientific Advisory Board, Emeritus Professor Tan Sri Dr Zakri Abdul Hamid, Fellow of the Academy of Sciences Malaysia, and a renowned scholar and writer in history and politics, Professor Dr Farish A. Noor, among others.

Diplomacy Through the Pandemic

The book *Diplomacy Through the Pandemic*, edited by Dr Shazelina Zainul Abidin tells the stories of Malaysian diplomats during one of the toughest times of this century: the COVID-19 pandemic. As the Malaysian frontliners abroad, the realities of the Foreign Service Officers in ensuring the safety of the Malaysian diaspora while pursuing Malaysia's national interests abroad in a 'new normal' were shared with the world

through this insightful publication. The book shed light upon varied experiences by 15 passionate writers, based on their attached missions during the pandemic. The regional chapters include Southeast Asia, South Asia, West Asia, Africa, Europe, the Americas, and Malaysia as well. The book essentially witnesses the hands-on experiences and practical diplomatic conduct in handling the global health crisis, which certainly serves as a useful guide for current and future career diplomats. Farish A. Noor, among others.



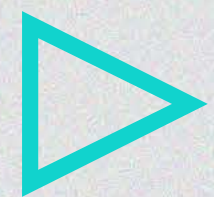
'Diplomacy Through The Pandemic' book launch on 26 September 2023



DIPLMACY THROUGH THE PANDEMIC



Edited by
SHAZELINA Z. ABIDIN



CENTRE FOR LEADERSHIP, NEGOTIATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

CENTRE FOR LEADERSHIP, NEGOTIATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The Centre for Leadership, Negotiation and Public Diplomacy (LNPD) is responsible for conducting training for Malaysian civil servants in the fields of leadership, negotiation, and public diplomacy. The following are courses conducted by LNPD in the year 2023:

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

SPKM course is a mandatory course for government officials and their spouses who will be serving in Malaysia's missions abroad. The course is designed to enhance the participant's knowledge of administration, protocol, consular relations, social etiquette and more. This is in line with the directive on *Surat Pekeliling Am Bilangan 2 Tahun 2018 Sistem Pentadbiran Kerajaan Malaysia*

(SPKM) *di Luar Negeri* dated 8 November 2018.

In 2023, the Centre successfully organised two series of SPKM courses for Grade 41 and above officers (an eight-day course) and another two for Grade 38 and below officers (a five-day course). SPKM 1/2023 was held from 30 January to 9 February 2023; SPKM 2/2023 from 27 February to 3 March 2023; SPKM 3/2023 from 13 to 22 June 2023; SPKM 5/2023 from 3 to 12 October 2023. A total of 208 participants, comprising 116 officers and 92 spouses from 20 ministries and government agencies, attended the courses.



Session with PERWAKILAN

Negotiation Course for Junior Level Officers

Recognising the importance of adapting negotiation skills, IDFR took a proactive step in 2023 by organising a comprehensive negotiation course for junior-level officers. The course was conducted from 14 to 16 March 2023 for junior-level officers and diplomats who will be involved in formal and informal negotiations with government and non-government actors locally and internationally. Thirty-seven officers from the Prime Minister's Department, Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Ministry of Domestic Trade and Costs of Living, Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Ministry of Higher Education, Election Commission, and Majlis Amanah Rakyat attended the course.

The negotiation course is designed to provide the participants with the principal rules of negotiations and share with them real-life experience of negotiation

strategies, processes, tools, and techniques from a Malaysian diplomat. It also aimed to help the participants develop their core competencies towards effective negotiation via interactive lectures, group discussions, and the exchange of experiences with experts in this particular field. This course was expected to enhance the participants' competency and professionalism in preparation for the actual negotiation.



Negotiation class in session

Workshop on Lobbying Efforts

The Workshop on Lobbying Efforts was held at the Putrajaya Marriott Hotel from 11 to 12 April 2023. This workshop was conducted at the request of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government Development of Malaysia to assist their officers in preparing for Malaysia's candidature for the Executive Board of UN-Habitat. The esteemed speakers were Dato' Dr Shazalina Zainul Abidin and Ms

Aznifah Isnariah from the Multilateral Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Twelve government officers participated in this workshop to enhance their understanding of the process, approach, and techniques involved in advocating for positions in international organisations. The ultimate goal of the workshop was to secure Malaysia's election to befitting the positions and seats. The course also enables the participants to deepen their knowledge of the essential arrangements following the casting of the vote.



Workshop on Lobbying Efforts

Leadership Course for Junior Level Officers

The Leadership Course for Junior Level Officers was organised from 9 to 11 May 2023. Twenty-seven officers from the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, the Malaysian Convention and Exhibition Bureau, National Academy of Arts, Culture and Heritage, Malaysian External Trade

Development Corporation, and *Majlis Amanah Rakyat*, attended the three-day course.

This course was organised to enable the participants to build essential leadership competencies and unleash their leadership potential. Additionally, the course was intended to enhance participants' capabilities to help them accelerate their leadership goals and make a high-impact contribution to their organisations. It also aimed to equip participants with the necessary tools, techniques, and skills to be highly effective leaders.

Public Diplomacy Workshop for Junior Level Officers

Public diplomacy functions as a form of soft power that can improve a country's reputation and exert influence over the development of domestic and international policies. Mastering the skills

of managing public diplomacy and media is imperative for Malaysian government officials to help them deliver government policies and information well. In line with this, the Centre successfully organised the *Public Diplomacy Workshop for Junior Level Officers* from 23 to 25 May 2023. It was specially designed for the early-career government officials of grades 41 to 44.

This workshop was attended by 22 participants from the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, Tourism Malaysia, Department of Chemistry Malaysia, *Majlis Amanah Rakyat*, Prime Minister's Department, National Art Gallery, Istana Budaya, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry, Attorney General's Chambers, and Malaysian Handicraft Development Corporation.

For three consecutive days, the participants were exposed to various

modules that provided them with unique and crucial insider knowledge through interactive lecture sessions. They also participated actively in engaging activities led by highly qualified experts. In addition, the participants had the opportunity to undergo intensive practical sessions to create media-worthy materials to refine public relations skills. This directly contributes toward effective information propagation that advances the interest of their organisations for online presence and face-to-face press conferences.

International Protocol and Diplomacy Course for Minister's Senior Private Secretary (SUSK)

On 31 May 2023 LNPD organised the International Protocol and Diplomacy Course for Cabinet Ministers' Senior Private Secretary (SUSK). The course was held physically at Sofitel Kuala Lumpur Damansara.

Nineteen SUSK from various ministries attended the course. The course was

designed to improve the participants' knowledge of protocol and diplomacy, deepen comprehension of the complexities of international relations, and strengthen relations among the participants. The participants were exposed to an overview of Malaysia's foreign policy and the importance of teamwork in achieving common goals. The course also emphasises the importance of applying the proper protocol upon dealing with foreign embassies and international organisations as well as during organising international events.



International Protocol and Diplomacy Course

Media Skills Workshop for Mid-Level Officers

The Centre successfully organised the Media Skills Workshop for Mid-Level Officers from 11 to 13 July 2023. The workshop aimed to enhance participants' awareness, knowledge, and skills in handling the media. It is designed for senior government officials of grades 48 and 52 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Ministry of Domestic Trade and Cost of Living, Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change, Ministry of Education,

Ministry of National Unity, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Entrepreneur Development and Cooperatives, Malaysian Investment Development Authority, and *Majlis Amanah Rakyat*.

Throughout the three-day workshop, participants were introduced to some of the best practices in managing public diplomacy through traditional media and current social media. In addition to interactive lectures and knowledge-sharing sessions, the participants also learnt about hands-on practical training in handling questions and answers during press conferences and studio interview sessions through media simulations conducted by media professionals.

Negotiation Course for Mid-Level Officers

Thirty-four participants of grades 48 and 52 from the Ministry of Rural Regional Development, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Human Resource, Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, Ministry of Work, Ministry of Communications and Digital, Ministry of Local Government Development, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry, *Majlis Amanah Rakyat*, Public Service Department, Tourism Malaysia, Malaysia Development Investment Authority, Ministry of National Unity, Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation, and Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security attended the course from 22 to 24

August 2023. This course was designed to equip the participants with the skills to successfully prepare, undertake, and conclude negotiations in formal and informal settings with the government and non-government actors locally and internationally.

On their journey to master the art and science of negotiation, the participants experienced negotiation simulation, allowing them to participate actively in the activities designed for hands-on experience. Each module was presented in different yet engaging forms, such as simulation exercises, group discussions, and activities where the participants had an active learning experience. Throughout the course, the speakers and participants engaged in a two-way discussion, exchanging views and thoughts on the lectures.



Negotiation Course for Mid-Level Officers

Negotiation Masterclass for the Ministry of Health Officials

The Negotiation Masterclass for the Ministry of Health Officials was conducted from 8 to 10 September 2023 at the Avillion Admiral Cove Port Dickson. This specially tailored training by IDFR at the Ministry of Health's request was organised to assist the Ministry's officials in honing their negotiation abilities with other countries and international organisations. Eighteen

officials of grades 41 to 54 attended this course.

During the course, the participants were exposed to comprehensive negotiation-related modules, which provided valuable insights into the negotiation process from the beginning to the end. In addition to learning theoretical knowledge, they had the opportunity to immerse themselves in a simulation of a multilateral negotiation while learning useful strategies and techniques in the art of negotiation. Each session was delivered by a prominent speaker from the diplomatic corps, serving officers, and subject matter experts.

Leadership Course for Mid-Level Officers

The Leadership Course for Mid-Level Officers was organised from 19 to 21 September 2023. The course was designed for Malaysian government officials at the mid-career level of grades 48 and 52 to enable them to build essential

leadership. Additionally, the course aimed to equip the participants with specific tools, techniques, and skills to be highly effective leaders.

The course was attended by twenty-five officers from various ministries, agencies, and departments of the Malaysian government including the Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Women,

Family and Community Development, Ministry of Communications and Digital, Malaysian Investment Development Authority, National Security Council, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of National Unity, Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change, Ministry of Domestic Trade and Costs of Living, Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation, Ministry of Entrepreneur and Cooperatives

Development, Ministry of Defence, and Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry.

To help the participants strengthen the essential skills most needed for success, they were exposed to various modules designed to enhance their abilities and hone their potential as future leaders in their workplaces. Throughout the three days, they actively engaged in interactive lecture sessions, role-play exercises, and group discussions.

International Day of Women in Diplomacy 2023 Women in Diplomacy: A Spectrum of Opportunities Forum

IDFR hosted the *Women in Diplomacy: A Spectrum of Opportunities* Forum on 23 June 2023 at Hilton Kuala Lumpur. The event was supported by the Embassy of Ireland in Malaysia and the United

Nations in Malaysia, Singapore, and Brunei Darussalam. It was held in conjunction with the International Day of Women in Diplomacy, adopted as Resolution 269 of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly last year, to be celebrated on 24 June. The event, arranged in a hybrid format, was attended by practitioners, foreign policy influencers, and administrators who work in the field of diplomacy.



Women in Diplomacy: A Spectrum of Opportunities forum

This year's theme Women in Diplomacy: A Spectrum of Opportunities focused on the opportunities available for women in the field of diplomacy, either as career diplomats, managers, and administrators within the international diplomacy circles, or even peacekeepers, to recognise the important contributions made, to discuss what gaps exist, and how to address it.

The Hon. Dato' Seri Diraja Dr Zambry Abd Kadir, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia delivered an inspiring introductory statement via video recording. Prof. Tan Sri Dr Jemilah Mahmood, Former Chief of the

World Humanitarian Summit secretariat at the United Nations delivered the keynote address, and the panellists for the forum were Lieutenant Colonel Jayne Lawlor, Brigade Adjutant and Senior Staff Officer Personnel Section and Gender Advisor Second Brigade, Irish Defence Forces and Mrs Karima El Korri, UN resident Coordinator in Malaysia, Singapore, and Brunei Darussalam. The forum was moderated by Ms Aznifah Isnariah Abd Ghani, Undersecretary of the Multilateral Economy and Environment Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia.

IDFR Distinguished Lecture Series 3/2023: Professor the Honourable Gareth Evans

The third IDFR Distinguished Lecture Series 2023 was hosted on 23 November 2023, where the Institute was deeply honoured to welcome the profoundly acclaimed Prof. the Hon. Gareth Evans. The lecture series titled, *Good International Citizenship: The Case for Decency*, was held at the IDFR Auditorium.

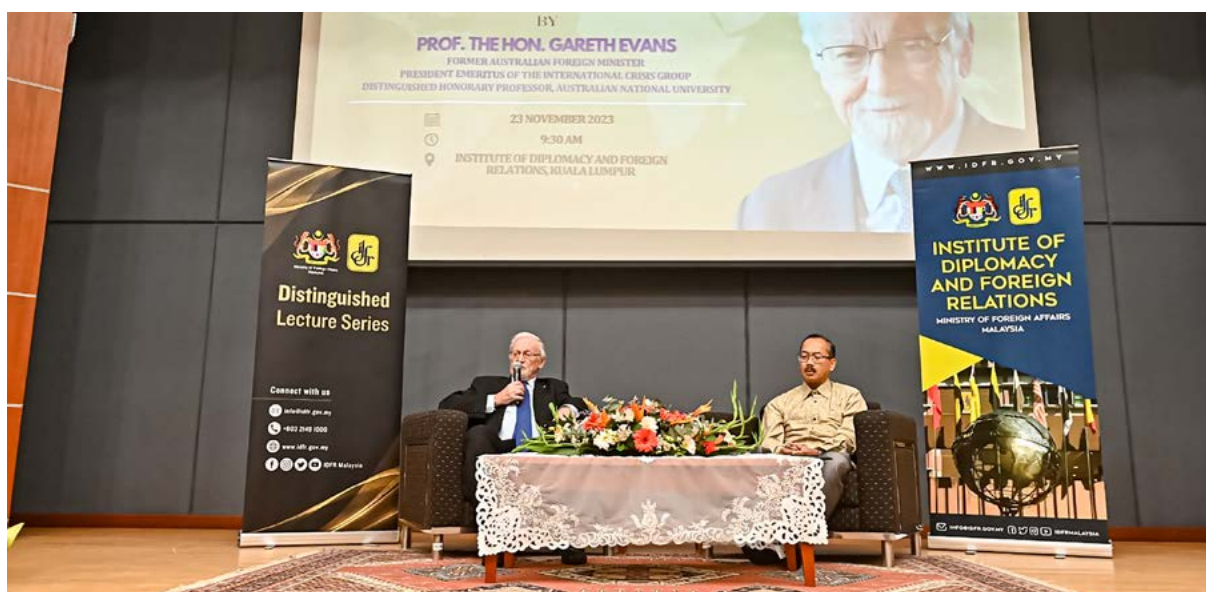
Prof. Gareth Evans is a Distinguished Honorary Professor at the Australian National University, where he served as a Chancellor from 2010 to 2019, and President Emeritus of the International Crisis Group, a prestigious independent organisation in Brussels dedicated to global conflict prevention and resolution. As a notable figure in Australian politics, Professor Evans served as the Australian Foreign Minister from 1988 to 1996. Among his numerous accomplishments

on mass atrocity crimes and nuclear weapons, Professor Evans has authored or edited 14 books, including his most recent publication *Good International Citizenship: The Case for Decency* (2022).

In his lecture, Professor Evans succinctly outlined three crucial components: The Politics of Decency, which highlights the difficulties posed by cynical governments; The National Interest Imperative, which promotes a cooperative mindset in advancing global and regional public goods; and The Moral Imperative, which emphasises the recognition and respect for our shared humanity as the cornerstone of good international citizenship. Throughout the session, he strongly emphasised how a sensible foreign policy may promote reciprocity, aid in creating soft power, and support the global problem-solving process. The lecture series was attended by over 100 participants from the diplomatic community, government officials, members of academia, Wisma Putra Officers, and officers from Malaysian Missions.



Prof. Gareth Evans delivering his lecture



Q & A session



Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Malaysia



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN
IN DIPLOMACY 2023 FORUM

Women in Diplomacy: A Spectrum of Opportunities

23 June 2023
Hilton Kuala Lumpur

In collaboration with:



Ambasáid na hÉireann | An Mhalaeisia
Embassy of Ireland | Malaysia
Kedutaan Ireland | Malaysia



UNITED NATIONS
MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE,
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM



▶
**CENTRE FOR
LANGUAGES
AND
CULTURAL
DIPLOMACY**

CENTRE FOR LANGUAGES AND CULTURAL DIPLOMACY

The Centre for Languages and Cultural Diplomacy (CLCD) focuses on two main areas: Language and Cultural Diplomacy. It promotes communication skills and cross-cultural understanding; offers language courses in English and other official foreign languages. Cultural Diplomacy, is explored through lectures, workshops, and research projects, aiming to contribute to the intersection of culture and diplomacy.

Say It Right: A Course on Pronunciation

CLCD conducted its in-house course bearing in mind the core features of effective communication from 7 to 9 March 2023. The content of the course was designed to raise the participants' awareness of the English Sound System and the elements influencing effective speech such as intonation, rhythm, word and sentence stress which then combined, illustrate better communicative skills. Besides that, the training content also emphasised the need to shape participants into confident and comfortable speakers through using the right words for clarity while understanding non-verbal cues in their daily engagements, especially in their respective work portfolios.

Twenty-five participants from various ministries and government agencies attended the course. Among them were from the Ministry of Local Government Development of Malaysia, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Ministry of Tourism, Arts, and Culture, Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation, Ministry of Domestic Trade and Cost of Living, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Communications and Digital, Parliament Malaysia, Fire and Rescue

Department (Putrajaya), Public Private Partnership Unit, Prime Minister's Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and IDFR.

The course helped participants to focus on the problem areas Malaysian speakers of English might encounter in pronouncing certain sounds that are not found in their native language. More importantly, it gave participants the opportunity to exercise these techniques in order for the entire message to be comprehensible to the audience through effective communication.



Say It Right: A Course on Pronunciation

Professional Writing Programme (PWP)

The Centre conducted its newly rebranded English programme, PWP: Professional Writing Programme 2023 from 14 to 16 March 2023. With the consciousness of the English language constantly evolving in nature and the various written platforms we engage in daily life, especially at work, the ELT Trainers at IDFR developed an impactful module to capture the current writing trends.

PWP offered exposure to written components comprising e-mail communications, report and proposal writing, instant messaging and social media writing. Besides that, the commonalities in writing cannot be neglected either in the aim of producing an effective piece of writing, thus tones in

writing, precise writing and structuring as well as punctuating correctly were also highlighted in the module.

The programme aimed to create an engaging learning environment for the participants thus practical sessions on e-mail, social media and report writing were infused in the class activities. This was beneficial for the participants when they showed massive interest and engagement in these practical sessions.

Overall, 23 government officers from various ministries such as the Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Human Resource, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Ministry of Higher Education, and Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission, were awarded with a Certificate of Attendance.



PWP: Professional Writing Programme 2023

Secretaries and Personal Assistants Essential English Development (SPEED)

SPEED is a three-day course of 12 two-hour slots with a maximum of 26 participants. Each course is designed by the trainer to meet the needs of its participants and is therefore a unique package targeted to improve business performance in English. This course was held from 31 May to 2 June 2023 at the Vivatel Kuala Lumpur, for the secretaries and personal assistants to equip them with the English language skills that they need for communicative tasks at their workplace. The participants came from various ministries.

The course was designed according to the needs of the learners; in fact, it exposed the common issues and difficulties in actual office work. There was a focus on written and spoken communication skills such as making arrangements, planning

and organising business events, and handling correspondence. It was meant to enhance the foundational skills that the participants had already possessed by providing meaningful information and abstract activities that could be significant in their work. Trainers used presentations, case studies, workshops, and role-play simulations that involved interactive participation.

This three-day course not only helped participants to shed their shyness but also to speak and write more confidently in their work-related matters. They took part actively in activities organised and interacted well with their course mates from different ministries. They were able to develop their English language skills, both verbal and non-verbal, for the improvement of their performance at work. Therefore, having strong communicative skills in the English language is a way of ensuring that secretaries and personal assistants have a somewhat guaranteed form of communication for their day-to-day needs in their professions.

Presentation Skills at the Workplace

The Centre for Languages and Cultural Diplomacy (CLCD) carried out its annual course titled "Presentation Skills at the Workplace" at the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) based on the need for government officers to acquire the skills and techniques of public speaking. No matter what it is or how daunting presenting in a small meeting, giving an update to the entire ministry or agency, or presenting at a conference or other events, participants explored the steps in order to prepare and

improve their skills to speak effectively and eloquently to an audience.

Twenty-one participants from the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Ministry of Human Resource, Ministry of Finance, Department of Atomic Energy, Islamic Tourism Centre, District Education Office, Academy of Sciences Malaysia, Malaysian Space Academy, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs joined the course held from 20 June 2023 until 22 June 2023.

This three-day course paved the way to help participants to negate their fear of

presenting by knowing their material well, practising relevant verbal and non-verbal strategies and connecting confidently with the audience. Participants successfully followed the correct process of preparing and delivering their

respective presentations whilst receiving constructive comments to better deal with challenges as a presenter and manoeuvring through the art of Public Speaking.

Mastering Communication with Diplomacy (MCD)

Individuals who grasp the art of diplomacy can effectively communicate, negotiate, and resolve issues with empathy, tact, and mutual understanding. Developing these talents takes time, practice, and self-reflection, but the advantages are priceless.

Keeping this in mind, CLCD held a course this year on Mastering Communication with Diplomacy. This course was made available to all government ministries and organisations. This course attracted a total of 26 students. It was held from 6 to 8 September at the Melia Hotel. Ms

Sharon Ng from Total English (Zubedy & Co.) led the course.

How successfully you communicate has a direct impact on how people perceive your job and performance, as well as your opportunities for career progression and mobility. Diplomacy and tact do not always come effortlessly, and even when they do, emotions and conflict will have the upper hand in conversation. Being skilled in these areas of communication necessitates awareness, training, and the ability to apply tried-and-true approaches to a wide range of situations.

The instructor's diplomatic approaches of communicating were very well received by the participants. They graduated as more confident and trustworthy communicators.



Mastering Communication with Diplomacy

Arabic Language Level 1

Two series of Arabic Level 1 courses were successfully conducted in 2023. The *Arabic Language Level 1 Series 1/2023* course started on 23 May until 8 August 2023 with 24 participants from various ministries and government agencies, mainly the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industries, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Communications and Multimedia, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Human Resources, the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, and the

Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE). The *Arabic Language Level 1 Series 2/2023* course was organised from 5 September to 23 November 2023. The 15 participants who enrolled in this second series were from the Energy Commission, Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change, Ministry of Communications and Multimedia, Ministry of Health Malaysia, National Institute of Public Administration, Malaysian Administrative Modernization and Management Planning Unit, MARA Technological University, Royal Malaysian Air Force, and the Malaysia Civil Defence Force.



Arabic online class

This course consisted of 42 contact hours each and was held twice a week, every Tuesday and Thursday from 5.30 to 7.30 pm for a total of 21 sessions. Arabic Level 1 courses were designed to equip the participants with basic knowledge of the Arabic language and culture, the necessary expressions needed to greet and introduce one self and others, and expressions to convey wishes and preferences. This course gave the participants the opportunity to master the skills of listening, speaking and understanding basic conversation in Arabic, which served as a good foundation for them to develop their competencies in the language and instil in them an interest in further acquiring the language.

During the conduct of this course, all participants showed a great interest in the programme and conveyed their interest in pursuing the course at the next level. Participants were encouraged to continue

practicing the basic skills in Arabic gained from this course via the online learning platforms available to sustain the ability enquired.

French Language Level 1

The French Language Course comprising *French Language Level 1 Series 1/2023* from 23 May to 8 August 2023 and *French Language Level 1 Series 2/2023* from 5 September to 23 November 2023 respectively, has attracted participants from diverse ministries and agencies. In the first series, the 26 participants who enrolled were from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Prime Minister's Department, Ministry of Human Resources, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Ministry of

Finance, Ministry of Education, Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation, *Istana Kerajaan Negeri Sembilan*, and Mines Excellence Golf Resort Berhad.

In the second series, there were 18 participants who were from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Prime Minister's Department, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Tourism, Arts, and Culture, Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation, Ministry of Rural Development, Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency, National University of Malaysia, PETRONAS, and BERNAMA.



French class

With a schedule of 42 contact hours every Tuesday and Thursday, from 5.30 to 7.30 pm, the course was tailored to furnish participants with essential linguistic and cultural skills. The programme aimed at enhancing language proficiency through a comprehensive focus on listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The structured approach, interactive methodologies, and emphasis on cultural understanding make it a valuable resource

for individuals seeking to enhance their language proficiency and broaden their horizons in the French-speaking countries.

Notably, the commitment and enthusiasm exhibited by all participants during the 21 online sessions were remarkable. These two series of courses were both conducted through Google Meet. Hence, the participants found the courses highly

effective, facilitating easy integration into their schedules after working hours, and they could actively engage in various interactive activities. Overall, the French Language Course Series 1 and Series 2 succeeded in providing a comprehensive and engaging learning experience, fostering both linguistic competence and cultural understanding among its diverse group of participants.

German Language Level 1

In the year 2023, there were two German Language courses conducted under the Centre of Language and Cultural Diplomacy (CLCD), IDFR. The courses were German Language Level 1, Series 1/2023 and German Language Level 1, Series 2/2023. These courses were held for 3 months which equalled to 42 teaching hours with 2 sessions conducted every week. (Tuesday and Thursday, from 5.30 pm to 7.30 pm, 2 hours per session) through an online platform (Google Meet). The main objective of the course is to provide a great chance for all participants to achieve a basic level of German Language proficiency to carry out everyday situations and related responsibilities in their general work field. They are also expected to possess good verbal and written communication skills to enable them to understand and disseminate information quickly and effectively.

German Language Level 1 Series 1/2023 began on 23 May to 8 August 2023 with 28 participants. They were from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Local Government Development,

Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Human Resources, Ministry of Education, Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Public Service Department Malaysia, Fire and Rescue Department of Malaysia, MATRADE, and ADTEC Melaka. At the end of the course, only 21 participants successfully finished the course and managed to exceed the passing mark for the final examination as the rest withdrew for the course.

German Language Level 1 Series 2/2023 began on 5 September to 23 November 2023 with 16 participants. They were from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Local Government Development, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Rural and Regional Development, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Education, Prime Minister Office, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation of Malaysia, Royal Malaysia Police, Fire and Rescue Department of Malaysia, MATRADE, Malaysian Investment Development Authority, and National University of Malaysia. Only 12 participants successfully finished the course and managed to exceed the passing mark for the final examination.

At the end of both courses, all 33 participants were able to possess basic

functions of each language skill for basic German Language, understand and able to read short and very simple texts related to daily activities and work. They also managed to understand and comprehend basic conversations using various common phrases in the German Language.

At the end of both courses, all 33 participants were able to possess basic functions of each language skill for basic German Language, understand and able to read short and very simple texts related to daily activities and work. They also managed to understand and comprehend basic conversations using various common phrases in the German Language.



Closing ceremony of the foreign language courses

An Induction for Foreign Diplomats in Malaysia: Malaysia's Culture and Identity

The Centre for Languages and Cultural Diplomacy (CLCD) held the Induction for Foreign Diplomats in Malaysia: Malaysia's Culture and Identity from 8 to 9 March 2023. This is the third series since its first instalment on 1 June 2022. The programme aimed to provide newly arrived diplomats with a comprehensive understanding of the diplomatic processes and lifestyle, as well as the culture in Malaysia. The two-day

programme was attended by 15 diplomats representing various foreign embassies and international organisations.

The programme began with a welcoming remark by Mr R. Suresh Kumar, Director of CLCD and featured talks by practitioners from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, BERNAMA TV, and a cultural expert. Throughout the course, the participants managed to gain a glimpse of the peculiarities of Malaysian culture, the workings of the Foreign Ministry, Malaysian Politics, honorifics in Malaysia, the nation's media landscape as well as

Working in Malaysia. One of the sessions included a visit to Wisma BERNAMA where participants were given a tour of the premises.

At the end of the programme, the participants expressed great satisfaction about how much they have learnt about the intricacies of Malaysian life – forming a strong foundation for their diplomatic tenure in Malaysia. On 9 March 2023, Dato' Dr Shazalina Zainul Abidin presented the certificates of attendance to the participants.



Induction for Foreign Diplomats in Malaysia: Malaysia's Culture and Identity

Course on Intercultural Communication and Cultural Diplomacy (CICAD)

IDFR organised a highly informative and engaging Course on Intercultural Communication and Cultural Diplomacy (CICAD) from 23 to 24 May 2023. This course aimed to equip the participants with a comprehensive understanding of the key elements, theories, and practices of cultural diplomacy while fostering intercultural awareness.

Twenty-seven participants from 11 ministries attended this training which covered various topics such as *Intercultural Communication, Cross-Cultural Communication, Cultural Intelligence, Madani Values in Malaysian Multicultural Society and Cultural Diplomacy and Nation Branding*. The participants are from Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry, Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation, Malaysian External Trade Development Corporation, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Ministry of Communication and Digital, Department of Chemistry, Malaysia, Department of Federal Territories, Malaysian Administrative Modernisation and Management Planning Unit, Prime Minister's Department and *Radio Televisyen Malaysia*.

The course was thoughtfully designed to provide practical knowledge through engaging talks, interactive discussions, and stimulating simulation exercises. This approach encouraged active participation and facilitated the exchange of valuable information among the participants. Throughout the duration of the course, the significance of cultural diplomacy and its profound impact on interactions were explored. The participants also managed to gain a glimpse of Wisma Putra's experience in managing its cultural diplomacy through Bilateral and Multilateral Relations.

Overall, CICAD was a resounding success, equipping the participants with the vital knowledge and skills necessary to navigate the complexities of intercultural communication and promote cultural diplomacy in their respective ministries and roles.

Cultural Diplomacy Lecture Series (CDLS)

Cultural Diplomacy Lecture Series (CDLS) is an exclusive platform where distinguished personalities, diplomats, senior government officials, academicians, policymakers, and other diplomacy practitioners share their knowledge and insights on topical, current, and relevant issues happening around the world. The lecture series aims to instil awareness of how cultural diplomacy is practised and how it could promote peace, stability, and prosperity globally. The motivation in identifying this scope of discussion is related to several events in the world that highlighted the emergence of the critical role of culture in modern international politics.

The first CDLS for 2023 took place on 26 May 2023 at the Tun Abdul Razak Auditorium, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Prof. Emeritus Tan Sri Dato' Dzulkifli bin Abdul Razak, the Rector of the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) delivered a talk on Cultural Intelligence. The lecture, co-hosted by IDFR and the Human Resource Management Division, Wisma Putra, emphasised the significance of cultural intelligence in diplomacy, particularly in navigating diverse cultural contexts. Prof. Dzulkifli highlighted the importance of adapting and integrating oneself into different cultural environments while maintaining one's own identity. Cultural intelligence enables effective engagement and collaboration with people from diverse cultures in various domains, including business, government, and academia. The



Prof. Emeritus Tan Sri Dato' Dzulkifli bin Abdul Razak

session drew over 90 participants, including Dato' Cheong Loon Lai, Deputy Secretary General Multilateral Affairs, officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysian Missions abroad, and officers from IIUM.

The second CDLS titled *The Role of Sister Cities in the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership*, was held on 28 August 2023. IDFR and the Australian High Commission jointly organised the lecture series, featuring The Hon. Frances Adamson AC, the Governor of South Australia.



The Hon. Frances Adamson AC

The lecture attracted more than 100 participants, including Dato' Bala Chandran Tharman, Acting Deputy Secretary General, Management Services, Diplomatic Corp, officials from other government agencies, international organisations, academia, as well as non-governmental organisations.

International Diplomacy: Communication and Culture (CIDCC)

IDFR in collaboration with the Public Health Development Division, Ministry of Health (MOH) organised an inaugural course on International Diplomacy: Communication and Culture from 2 to 3 August 2023. The course was attended by 40 participants from MOH who are under the ASEAN Health Cluster Focal Points.

Taking in the importance of having cross-cultural understanding and awareness in dealing with ASEAN affairs, the modules for the course were designed to enhance the knowledge and skills related to international diplomatic practices, intercultural communication, and cultural diversity. The participants were also exposed to sessions that made up of

knowledge sharing on Cultural Diplomacy in the ASEAN Arena, Cross-cultural and Intercultural Communication, the Effects of Culture on Bilateral and Multilateral Relations, Language and Diplomacy, Cultural Intelligence, and Developing Cultural Competence and Diplomacy based on MADANI Related Values. The course also touched on Official Correspondence in which the participants were exposed to techniques and skills in drafting interventions, concept notes, and report writing.

Through engaging lectures, sharing sessions and interactive activities, the participants gained a comprehensive understanding that extended beyond cultural competency. They also became more conscious of their 'identity' that one should possess as a Malaysian and recognised the importance of adhering to diplomatic procedures while prioritising national interest.

Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP): Cultural Diplomacy

The Centre organised a Cultural Diplomacy course under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) from 5 to 14 September 2023. The course was attended by 16 participants from 15 countries, namely Azerbaijan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Cambodia, Cameroon, Indonesia, Kyrgyz, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Namibia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan, and Viet Nam.

The course is designed to provide mid-career diplomats under the South-South Cooperation initiative substantive input on aspects of cultural values, beliefs and perceptions between diverse cultural groups. The aspects of intercultural communications were emphasised to raise the participants' awareness on how the psyche of a society could determine

the way people from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds interact with each other.

Among the special focus areas given were *Cultural Diplomacy in the ASEAN Arena*, *Conceptual Framework of Culture and Diversity*, *Humanising Diplomacy thru Culture, Language and Diplomacy* and *Cultural Dimensions in Negotiations*. In addition, there were also lectures on Cross-Cultural Communication and Interactive Malay for Daily Conversation. These modules enlightened the participants on the role of culture in international relations and the way cooperation between Governments could be achieved through cultural diplomacy.

Throughout the course, participants engaged in a wide range of enriching learning experiences. These experiences included interactive lectures, inspiring group discussions, immersive simulation exercises, and insightful case studies.

Furthermore, participants had the privilege of visiting the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where they actively participated in engaging sessions with Desk Officers representing various countries. Additionally, they had the opportunity to visit PETRONAS Twin Towers, where they received a comprehensive briefing on PETRONAS's unwavering commitment to progress. This visit was further enhanced by an excursion to the observation deck at level 86, which provided them with breathtaking views. Participants also had the chance to immerse themselves in the world of international trade at the Malaysia International Halal Showcase (MIHAS). Here, they received valuable insights on Export Acceleration from the Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) and were given a guided tour

of MIHAS' business platform, shedding light on the thriving Halal industry in Malaysia.

In addition, participants embarked on a cultural awareness visit to Negeri Sembilan, where they received informative briefings from the Kuala Pilah District Office. These briefings not only covered the development of the royal town but also delved into its rich historical background that contributed to its formation. At the Kuala Lumpur Craft Complex, participants had the opportunity to try their hand at Batik drawing and painting. Their visit to the Malaysian Tourism Centre (MaTiC) amplified their valuable insights into the diverse ethnic cultures that make up the tapestry of Malaysia.

The Closing and Certificate Presentation Ceremony was held on 14 September 2023. Mr Devrin Jeck, Undersecretary of International Cooperation and Development Division (ICADD) delivered the Closing Remarks and presented the certificate of attendance to 16 participants. Ms Maria Rowena Corpuz of the Philippines delivered the vote of thanks on behalf of the class. Also in attendance were Mr R. Suresh Kumar, Director of CLCD, Chargé d'Affaires and Embassy Representatives of the participating countries. The ceremony ended with a cascade of joy and colour where guests were treated to the enchanting 'Rasa Sayang' song and the lively 'Joget Penghibur' dance. The participants, adorned in their national attire, stole the show with their mesmerising performances.



MTCP: Cultural Diplomacy participants at Wisma Putra

Course on the International Front Series 1/2023

CLCD in collaboration with the Public Service Department, organised a comprehensive three-day course, designated as the Course on the International Front Series 1/2023 from 5 to 7 July 2023, at the Seri Pacific Hotel in Kuala Lumpur.

The course drew the participation of 20 individuals representing various ministries, particularly, the Public Service Department, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Entrepreneur and Cooperatives Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation,

Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Local Government Development, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Domestic Trade and Cost of Living, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Rural and Regional Development, and Prime Minister's Department.

The primary objective of this course was to instil awareness regarding roles and responsibilities as officers at the International Division while enhancing participants' comprehension of international affairs. Beyond delving into international relations and diplomatic practices, the programme exposed participants to crucial interpersonal, managerial, and social skills. The course content covered a spectrum of topics, including *Malaysia's Foreign Policy*,

Protocol Matters and Handling of Visits, Promoting Malaysia as the Preferred Investment and Tourist Destination, Cross-Cultural Understanding and Cultural Diplomacy, Diplomatic Presence, International Negotiation, On the International Front (Going Global), and Fine Dining Practicum. Each subject was adeptly delivered by subject matter experts and senior government officials.

Participants were actively involved in

discussions, interactive communication, and beneficial learning experiences throughout the duration of the course. The culmination of the programme featured a sharing session by former Malaysian Ambassador Datuk Zainal Abidin Bakar, who provided insights based on his experience as a Senior Diplomat. The event concluded with closing remarks delivered by Dr. Azrul Anaz Mohd Any, Deputy Director at the Public Service Department.



COTIF 1/2023

Course on the International Front Series 2/2023

The second series of the Course on the International Front Series was held from 18 to 20 October 2023, in Seri Pacific Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, in collaboration with the Public Service Department. A total of 20 participants from various ministries, namely, the Public Service Department, Ministry of Communications and Digital, Ministry of Works, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Plantation and Commodities, Ministry of National Unity, Ministry of Transport, National Institute of Public Administration, and Penang State Secretary Office, joined the course.



COTIF 2/2023

In addition to fostering a deeper understanding of international affairs, the course exposed participants to essential interpersonal, managerial, and social skills. Diverse topics were covered by subject matter experts and senior government officials, including *Malaysia's Foreign Policy, Protocol Matters and Handling of Visits, Promoting Malaysia as the Preferred Investment and Tourist Destination, Cross-Cultural Understanding and Cultural Intelligence, Diplomatic Presence, International Negotiation, Taking the Floor, and Fine Dining Practicum.*

Throughout the course, participants actively engaged in discussions, had interactive communications, and were immersed in positive learning experiences. The programme concluded with a sharing session by former Malaysian Ambassador, Dato' Sudha Devi K.R Vasudevan, followed by closing remarks from Dr Nor Mazny Abdul Majid, Director of Research, Planning and Policy Division at the Public Service Department, and certificate presentation by Dato' Syed Bakri Syed Abdul Rahman, Director General of IDFR.

Introduction to Knowledge Management

The Introduction to Knowledge Management course was conducted on 3 May 2023, at Vivatel Kuala Lumpur. A group of 21 IDFR staff members from diverse centres and divisions enthusiastically participated in this one-day programme.

Recognising the pivotal role of intellectual resources such as the

expertise of employees and valuable personal experience in organisational development, the Centre advocates the need for all IDFR personnel to possess these resources and foundational knowledge in the realm of knowledge management. Consequently, the Introduction to Knowledge Management course was orchestrated with the primary

objectives of fostering awareness about Knowledge Management and promoting best practices within the IDFR framework. This includes covering the meaning of knowledge management, delineating types of knowledge, elucidating the knowledge model, providing exposure to real-world examples of knowledge management activities, and drawing insights from prominent brands' knowledge management initiatives.

The expert trainer for this one-day event was Dr Khairil Hizar Md Khuzaimah, a seasoned trainer in knowledge management. Noteworthy was the active cooperation and interaction displayed by all participants during group activities and discussions on knowledge management case studies. As the course concluded, participants transitioned from a state of unfamiliarity with knowledge management terms and concepts to a readiness for the upcoming phases of the programme.



Group discussion

LANGUAGE COURSES



Arabic



English



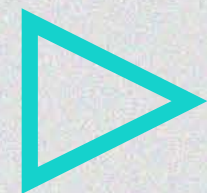
German



French



Mandarin



COMPETENCY ENHANCEMENT CENTRE

COMPETENCY ENHANCEMENT CENTRE

The Competency Enhancement Centre (CEC) manages one of IDFR's long-term flagship programmes, the Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD), a preparatory course for the junior officers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia, prior to their first posting abroad. The Centre also conducts specialised training courses for selected groups of individuals from time to time. CEC aims to provide opportunities to participants to build on and further enhance their knowledge, skills, and experience not only in diplomatic, foreign policy, international relations, and strategic theories, but also in practical applications. Ultimately, the Centre envisages moulding competent and inquisitive individuals who are better aware of the shifting global political and economic climate, to contribute to the progress of Malaysian diplomacy.

Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) 2023

The Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) is an annual flagship programme of IDFR to expose junior Administrative and Diplomatic Officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Prime Minister's Department to various angles of diplomatic affairs and international relations prior to their first assignment in Malaysia's diplomatic missions abroad.

DiD 2023 was held from 8 May to 15 September 2023. The centre received a

total of 18 participants of which 15 of them were from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and three from the Prime Minister's Department.

The participants were exposed to various leadership and diplomacy courses through practical lessons, lectures, briefings, simulation and role-play exercises and excursions. Among them are Defending National Interest (DNI), drafting of Annual Leaders Retreat (ALR) document, simulation on ASEAN Summit and Related Meetings and drafting of UN Resolution.



DiD 2023 Malaysian Mission attachment

Pre-Posting Course for Heads of Mission and Spouses

The Pre-Posting Course for Heads of Mission and Spouses was held from 29 September to 3 October 2023 at Pullman Kuala Lumpur City Centre for 15 prospective Heads of Missions and their spouses.

The objective of the programme was to prepare participants for their future roles as Heads of Mission. Other than to elevate participants' knowledge and skills in diplomacy and international relations, the programme also sought to enhance interpersonal skills and leadership qualities, ensuring that the prospective Heads of Mission are well equipped to perform their new functions and responsibilities. The inclusion of modules for the spouses helped them to better understand and prepare for their important roles and duties in the diplomatic arena.

The course module encompassed various facets of Malaysia's foreign policy while focusing on critical areas such as Media Handling and Crisis Management. Participants benefited from a comprehensive range of slots, including Grooming, Protocol and Etiquette, Handling Incoming and Outgoing Visits,

and specialised sessions such as Integrity Matters and Invest Malaysia.

One of the course highlights was the opportunity for participants to visit the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), providing valuable insights into environmental considerations in foreign policy. The course also featured courtesy calls on The Hon. Dato' Seri Diraja Dr Zambry Abd Kadir, Minister of Foreign Affairs and The Hon. Datuk Mohamad Alamin, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. A Networking Dinner was organised for the participants to engage with former ambassadors to their respective host countries, as well as a Royal Dinner with HRH Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah Al-Maghfur-Lah, the Sultan of Perak Darul Ridzuan and Royal Patron of IDFR which added a regal touch to the programme.

The course featured esteemed speakers, experts in their respective fields, providing valuable insights to the participants. This holistic approach is aimed to ensure that participants are well-rounded and prepared for the challenges of their future duties. The prospective Heads of Missions received their credentials on 4 October 2023 from His Majesty Yang Di-Pertuan Agong at a ceremony held in Istana Negara.



Royal Dinner with the Royal Patron of IDFR

Training Course in Product & Brand Management tailored for Lao PDR

A Training Course in Product & Brand Management tailored for Lao PDR was held from 4 December to 7 December 2023 at the Berjaya Times Square Hotel. Facilitated by the Competency Enhancement Centre (CEC), this immersive course was meticulously designed to provide an in-depth understanding of technological advancements and the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) within the realm of brand and product management.

Drawing participation from a select group of ten individuals representing the Ministry of Information, Culture, and Tourism of Laos, this initiative aims for participants to explore and incorporate innovative strides in product and brand management within their professional sphere.

Structured across four comprehensive days, the programme encompassed modules focused on strategic insights

into content management. Commencing with Content Planning and Strategy, the course progressed to Hands-on Content Creation, followed by an exploration of Content Optimization and Analytics. The final day was dedicated to highlighting Malaysia's pivotal role and understanding key issues within the ASEAN landscape.

An exciting feature of the programme was the culminating KL City Tour. Participants were immersed in a journey through historical landmarks and sites steeped in technological progress. They visited Batu Caves, Istana Negara and explored the sights and sounds of the Kuala Lumpur City Centre. This experiential exposure served to deepen cultural understanding and contextualise Malaysia's advancements within a global landscape.

The training course stands as a testament to fostering cross-border collaboration, knowledge dissemination, and strategic capacity-building. It not only equipped participants with cutting-edge insights but also fostered an exchange of perspectives crucial for driving innovative transformations.



Training Course in Product & Brand Management

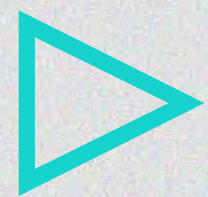


Graduation Ceremony

DIPLOMA IN DIPLOMACY 2023

2 November 2023
Eastin Hotel Kuala Lumpur

PROGRAM RETREAT
IDFR 2023



MANAGEMENT SERVICES DIVISION

MANAGEMENT SERVICES DIVISION

The Management Services Division provides support and administrative services to IDFR and ensures the practicality and efficiency of all management and operation activities of the Institute.

Administration, Human Resource and Finance Section

Staffing



As of 31 December 2023, only 96 out of 135 posts were filled while the remaining 39 posts are still vacant. The breakdown of IDFR's staffing are as follows:

Grade	Posts	Staffing	Percentage Filled (%)
TOP MANAGEMENT			
Director General Premier Grade B (Open)	1	1	100
Head of Centre Premier Grade C	1	1	100
Head of Centre Premier Grade C (Open)	2	2	100
PROFESSIONAL AND MANAGEMENT GROUP			
Grade 54	3	0	0
Grade 54 (T)	1	0	0
Grade 52/54 (T)	5	0	0
Grade 52/54	1	0	0
Grade 52	3	3	100
Grade 52 (T)	2	0	0
Grade 48/52 (T)	9	3	33.3
Grade 48	5	4	80
Grade 48 (T)	2	1	50
Grade 44	1	1	100
Grade 41/44/48/52/54	3	3	100
Grade 41/44/48 (T)	2	2	100
Grade 41/44	14	4	28.57
Grade 41/44 (T)	12	7	58.33
SUPPORT GROUP			
Grade 01-32	67	64	95.52
Total	135	96	71.11

Staff Achievement



In 2022, six officers and staffs were awarded the Excellence Service Award 2022 by the Ministry. The certificate presentation ceremony was held at the Ministry's Excellent Service Award Ceremony on 31 October 2023. The list of the recipients are as follows:

No.	Name	Centre
1.	Puan Shanthini A/P Subramaniam	CAS
2.	Puan Nur Syahirah Md. Sallim	MSD
3.	Puan Idayu Syima Mohd Saleh	Director General's Office
4.	Puan Nora Tukirin	MSD
5.	Encik Ahmad Khidir Lemin	PSED
6.	Puan Nur Fazlina Basiron	CEC

As IDFR is listed as a National Training Institute (ILA), it received a training allocation of RM246,158.80 from the Public Service Department (JPA) in 2023. The courses coordinated by the Human Resources Unit for the self-enhancement of its trainers under this fund are detailed below:

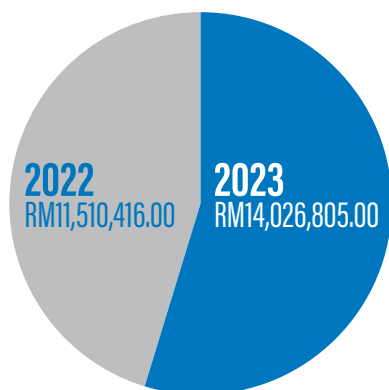
No.	Programmes	Date
1.	The Key to Knowledge Management (TACIT Knowledge)	3 May 2023
2.	Training for Trainers: Making a Difference (MAD)	7-8 June 2023
3.	Training for Trainers for Tabletop Exercise: Crisis Management	11-14 September 2023
4.	German for Advanced Practitioner	25 October-5 December 2023
5.	French as a Foreign Language	31 October-1 December 2023
6.	Master Trainer Program Training: Need Assessment Design, Development, Delivery, Assessment and Measurement	1-3 December 2023
7.	Strategic Negotiation Course	4-6 December 2023
8.	Social Media Enhancement Workshop (Intermediate-Advanced)	11-13 December 2023

Financial Allocation and Expenses



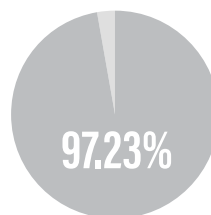
IDFR received an operating budget of RM14,026,805.00 in 2023. Its total spending for the year was RM12,468,519.95 (88.89%). This shows an increase in the amount of actual expenses compared to 2022. This indicate by the increasing number of programmes conducted by IDFR in 2023.

OPERATING BUDGET ALLOCATION (RM)

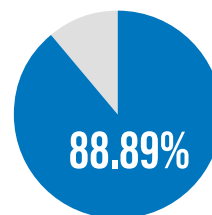


ACTUAL EXPENSES

2022 
RM11,191,926.95



2023 
RM12,468,519.95



Bengkel Penyelarasan Perancangan Perolehan bagi Tahun 2024

This programme was coordinated by Administration and Finance. It was organised from 27 to 28 October 2023 at The Saujana Kuala Lumpur and attended by 65 officers from all Centres. This was

an important session conducted at the end of the year to review and finalise the Perancangan Perolehan for year 2024 as well as refresher and transfer knowledge on WP10.9 with MOF officer.



Bengkel Penyelarasan Perancangan Perolehan

IDFR Library

The library's mission is to improve and expand access to a diverse source of information and services to fulfil the requirements of all users.

The library has successfully implemented reading initiatives to strengthen IDFR's reading culture as well as to establish a space for learning, generating ideas, sharing information and knowledge discussion.

There are presently 2,740 multimedia units, 4,504 periodical copies and 23, 600 monograph copies available.

The programmes that were organised throughout the year of 2023 are as follows:

Bicara Buku Bersama Penulis: Women in the House: Leadership in the Malaysian Parliament

On 22 March 2023, a total of 130 participants from various ministries, departments and government agencies took part in the online programme. The guest speaker was Associate Professor Dr. Ummu Atiyah Ahmad Zakuan from the International Affairs Department of Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM).

Jom Baca bersama 10 Minit@IDFR

The Jom Baca Bersama 10 Minit@IDFR was held on 18 April 2023, involving 54 participants. Mr Mohamad Ika Danial Abdullah, Research Officer, Centre for Political Studies and Economic Diplomacy (PSED), shared his review of the book titled, Speeches That Changed the World. The programme is in support of the Let's Read Together for 10 Minutes initiative at national level, organised by the National Library of Malaysia.



Jom Baca bersama 10 Minit@IDFR

Book Sharing@IDFR

To broaden the book sharing platform, the library organised book review sessions with the Director General as the pioneer. The recorded sessions are available on IDFR's official social media platform.

Dato' Dr Shazelina Zainul Abidin shared her thought on *Dewey: The Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched The World*, a book written by Vicky Myron with Bret Witter.

Mr Ahmad Muziru Idham Adnan, Research Officer from the Centre for Political Studies and Economic Diplomacy (PSED), shared

his review on *Masharakat Chantek: Enigma Penyisihan OKU*, written by Mohd Rosli Ibrahim.

Mr Ahmad Muziru Idham Adnan also reviewed *What Your Teacher Didn't Tell You: The Annexe Lectures*, written by Farish A. Noor.

Rukun Negara Mini Exhibition in conjunction with National Day and Malaysia Day Celebrations



National Day and Malaysia Day Celebrations at IDFR

An exhibition of *Rukun Negara* was held from 18 August to 29 September 2023 in conjunction with the National Day and Malaysia Day 2023 celebrations. The event was officiated by Dato' Dr Shazelina Zainul Abidin.

A talk titled, *The Rukun Negara and the Return to Democracy In Malaysia* written by Syed Hussein Alatas was presented by Mr Ahmad Muziru Idham Adnan. *Rukun*

Negara recitation followed immediately after the singing of the Malaysian National Anthem, *Negaraku*. To commemorate the occasion, all participants raised the Malaysian flag while singing the *Jalur Gemilang* song.

Poem Recital and video clips on *Pengisytiharan Kemerdekaan Tanah Melayu* and *Sejarah Rukun Negara* were also screened. Additionally, there were

also infotainment activities.

The objectives of the programme are to foster a sense of patriotism, devotion, and unity among Malaysians as well as

to deepen awareness and understanding of harmony, goodwill and trust among citizens, pertinent values to Malaysia's national development.

Visit to the Kuala Lumpur International Book Fair (KLIBF)

A total of 20 staff participated in the visit to Kuala Lumpur International Book Fair (KLIBF). The annual event was held on 31 May 2023 at the World Trade Centre Kuala Lumpur (WTCKL).

Monthly Excellent Reader Award

The award is presented as a token of recognition to an outstanding reader who actively borrows books from the IDFR library collection. In addition, this award aims to encourage a strong reading culture among the IDFR community.

ICT UNIT

Technology is the bedrock of IDFR's everyday operations. The IDFR ICT team's aim is to deliver proactive service through reliable technological infrastructure, services, and support so that the ICT tools run seamlessly and effortlessly as needed. No matter how it is used—checking email, enabling courses and programmes, networking and cooperating with counterparts near and far—the ICT team is always working to enable IDFR personnel, trainees, and stakeholders to expand the possibilities.



ICT team in action

Boosting IT Infrastructure

The IDFR Wi-Fi network has been upgraded to make it more reliable and faster, to maximise the architecture and bandwidth. This comprehensive approach intends to improve IDFR connectivity, security, and efficiency, plus to give users a better experience overall. In this activity, a new switch also has been installed to replace the failed one. Additionally, the installation and configuration of a new antivirus software is completed and utilised. ICT team keeping up with new resources, updating security, and getting new features and tools while also making what we do more structured, and user-friendly.

System Application Implementation

The launch of Sistem Pengurusan Kursus dan Permohonan Asrama (SPKPA) on 19 April 2023. This system comprises three major modules: course management, facility reservation management, and complaint management. SPKPA facilitates course administration for the course secretary and streamlines the application process for applicants. Moreover, SPKPA facilitates the centralised and simple submission of complaints and facility reservation requests. Continued efforts are being made by the ICT Unit and the SPKPA Project Committee to improve new features. These new features will include the registration DiD and the SPKM programme.

Overall, the ICT Unit had a successful year that was marked by the accomplishment of goals and the triumph over challenges. The ICT Team accomplished or made impressive progress on several important projects that improved services and sped up access to technology tools for the benefit of the whole IDFR community. Everyone worked hard every day to improve services, implement new tools, increase features and functions, keep systems working, resolve problems, and keep up with the expanding demand for technology. The ICT Unit will endure a comprehensive evaluation in the future to identify additional opportunities to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of its services.



Workshop on Sistem Pengurusan Kursus dan Permohonan Asrama (SPKPA)

CORPORATE AFFAIRS SECTION

The Corporate Affairs Section (CAS) stands as the cornerstone of our Institute's outreach and branding endeavours, offering an array of vital services such as Programme Coordination, Publicity and Promotion, Public Relations and Media, Strategic Partnership, Publication, and Corporate Gifts. With a strategic lens, CAS takes charge of aligning various programmes with organisational objectives, crafting compelling narratives, and fostering positive relationships with stakeholders. Our team specialises in curating impactful publications that showcase the Institute's achievements and thought leadership, as well as providing bespoke corporate gifts that reflect our values. Moreover, CAS takes the role of creating opportunities for our staff to engage with external partners and foster collaborative relationships with other entities through visits and official engagements. In the dynamic landscape of 2023, CAS emerged as the orchestrator of numerous internal and external activities, further solidifying the Institute's presence and impact.

Financial Retreat 2023

The full-day programme, held in January 2023 at IDFR, was an event attended by all IDFR officers. This gathering played a crucial role in setting the tone for the year ahead, serving as a platform to comprehensively review and finalise both programmes and budgetary allocations for 2023. The significance of this programme lay in its potential to align organisational goals, ensuring a cohesive and well-coordinated approach to the challenges and opportunities anticipated in the year 2023.

Program Libat Urus bersama Pemegang Taruh IDFR

A memorable appreciation and networking session on 18 May 2023 in IDFR. This event served as a heartfelt gesture to express gratitude to our valued stakeholders. By bringing together the internal team and external partners, the session fostered a spirit of camaraderie and collaboration, celebrating the collective efforts and achievements. It provided a platform for meaningful connections, ensuring that the bonds forged during this event would continue to contribute to the Institute's success in the years to come.

Social Media Workshops

Two workshops focusing on enhancing the branding and social media presence of IDFR through strategic development of visually compelling graphic and video content were held on 28 to 30 August and 11 to 13 December 2023. Participants learn to craft content that align with contemporary trends, ensuring that IDFR remains relevant and resonates effectively with its target audience. By fostering creativity and employing innovative approaches, the workshop endeavours to elevate IDFR's digital identity and outreach, ultimately contributing to a more influential and dynamic online presence.



Social Media Enhancement Workshop (Intermediate-Advanced) in December 2023

Delegation Visits

The corporate affairs section also conducts delegation visits from numerous representatives of universities, government agencies, and foreign services of various countries to IDFR. The visits aimed at providing a first-hand understanding of IDFR's pioneering work in the field of diplomacy. The delegation, hailing from diverse academic and diplomatic backgrounds, engaged in insightful discussions, exchanged best practices, and explored potential avenues for collaboration. Among delegations received are:

- | | |
|--|---|
| i. <i>Lawatan Delegasi Sarjana Hubungan Antarabangsa dan Diplomasi, Fakulti Sains Pentadbiran dan Pengajian Polisi, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM)</i> | v. <i>Lawatan Sambil Belajar dari Kolej Perisihan Angkatan Tentera Malaysia</i> |
| ii. <i>Lawatan dari Bahagian Pembangunan Kompetensi (BPK) Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM)</i> | vi. <i>Lawatan Rasmi Menteri Luar Negeri ke IDFR</i> |
| iii. <i>Lawatan Delegasi dari Universiti Islam Antarabangsa Malaysia (IIUM)</i> | vii. <i>Sesi Kunjungan Hormat oleh Delegasi dari Universiti Pertahanan Nasional Malaysia (UPNM)</i> |
| iv. <i>Visit by the Delegation of Junior Diplomatic School, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Indonesia</i> | viii. <i>Lawatan oleh Delegasi dari Universiti Malaya</i> |
| | ix. <i>Lawatan Ilmiah dari Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT)</i> |

Benchmarking Visits

Our tailored benchmarking visits have empowered organisations to enhance performance, provide networking opportunities, and actionable recommendations tailored to personal goals. Each visit showcased IDFR's cutting-edge research initiatives, efficient diplomatic training programmes, and its pivotal role in fostering international cooperation. The exchange not only strengthened diplomatic networks but also positioned IDFR as a hub for global

insights, reinforcing its reputation as a leading institution in diplomatic studies and international relations. Two benchmarking visits in 2023 have marked a significant step toward fostering collaborative efforts and knowledge sharing in the ever-evolving landscape of diplomacy, namely:

- i. Benchmarking Visit by Delegates from the Zimbabwe Foreign Service Institute (ZFSI)
- ii. Benchmarking Visit by Delegates from the Foreign Service Institute of Ghana



Benchmarking Visit by Delegates from the Zimbabwe Foreign Service Institute (ZFSI)

IDFR Retreat 2023

The completion of Retreat 2023 marks a significant milestone in advancing IDFR's mission and goals. The collaborative efforts achieved key objectives by finalising programme plans and budget projections for 2024 in a strategic

session with the Director General. The comprehensive review of 2023's programme implementation provided valuable insights for future enhancements, while dedicated activities successfully enhanced motivation and teamwork among IDFR employees. An essential component of the programme was

dedicated to enhancing motivation and teamwork spirit among IDFR employees. The aim was to foster a collaborative and motivated work environment. Through targeted activities and engagements, we

sought to instil a sense of shared purpose and commitment, with the ultimate goal of positioning IDFR as an institution with sustainable practices and exemplary management.



Team building activity

Publicity, Promotion and Social Media

In the ever-evolving landscape of digital connectivity, IDFR has successfully cultivated a growing platform on social media since its inception. With a commitment to transparency and engagement, our social media channels have not only gained a significant audience but have also become a dynamic space for sharing the latest happenings within IDFR. Regular updates on events, achievements, and insights from the institute are seamlessly disseminated, fostering a sense of community and

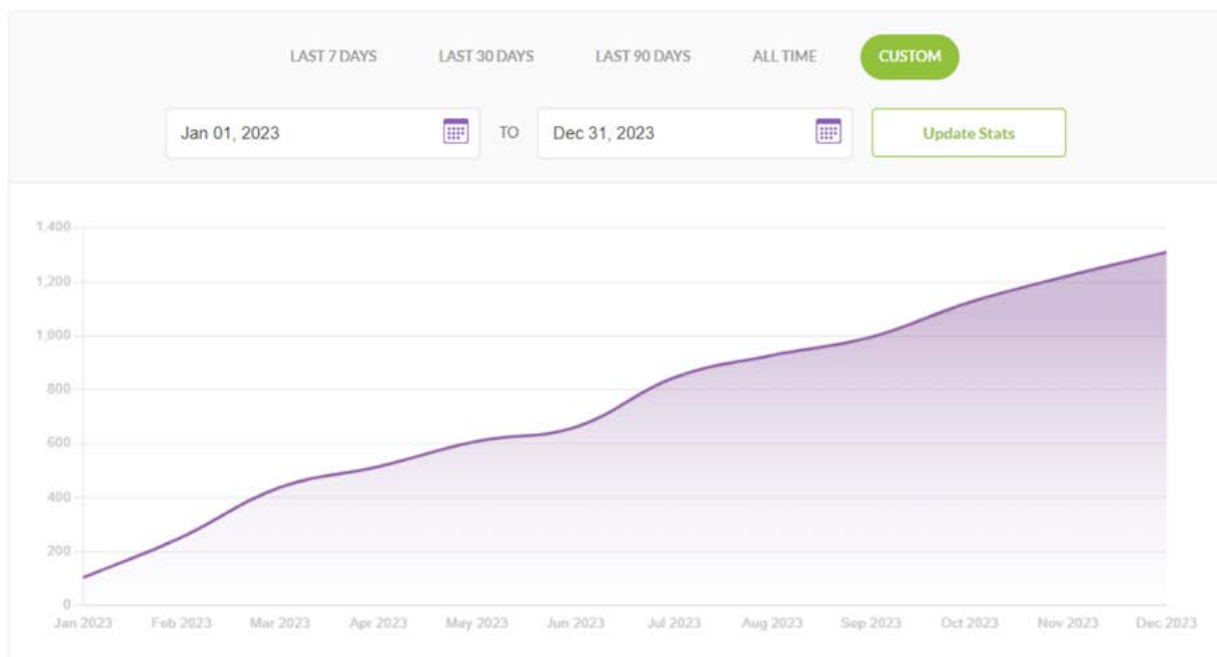
connectivity among our stakeholders. As we continue to witness the enthusiastic response from our audience, IDFR remains dedicated to expanding its social media presence, ensuring that our global community stays informed and engaged. This ongoing effort reflects our commitment to harnessing the power of social media to strengthen connections, amplify our impact, and foster a more inclusive dialogue in the diplomatic sphere and beyond.

IDFR Podcast – Diplomatic Dispatch

Launched in late February, the IDFR Podcast has swiftly garnered a significant audience, becoming a dynamic channel for disseminating valuable insights within the diplomatic realm. The podcast serves as a platform to share the knowledge and experiences of current senior practitioners and policymakers. Delivering updates and insightful breakdowns of current

events, it strives to bridge the gap between theory and practice in the field of international relations. As it continues to gain traction, the podcast aims to further expand its reach, providing a growing audience with unparalleled access to the wisdom of seasoned professionals. This initiative exemplifies IDFR's dedication to facilitating meaningful discourse and knowledge-sharing within the diplomatic community, promising an exciting trajectory of growth and influence.

1,310 downloads from Jan 01, 2023 to Dec 31, 2023



Diplomatic Dispatch

Source:

https://www.buzzsprout.com/1939567/stats/custom_date_range_chart?utf8=%E2%9C%93&custom_date_range_selected=value+true&from_date=Jan+01%2C+2023&to_date=Dec+31%2C+2023&commit=Gathering+Data

Public Relations and Media

CAS also is responsible for overseeing media invitations, managing press releases, and coordinating promotional activities for IDFR events and publications, such as:

- i. The Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) 2022 Graduation Ceremony
 - ii. Women in Diplomacy Forum 2023: A Spectrum of Opportunities
 - iii. IDFR Lecture Series 1/2023: When Elephants Fight, Will ASEAN Get Trampled?
 - iv. IDFR Lecture Series 2/2023: The Role of Sister Cities in the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership
 - v. Cultural and Civilisation Diplomacy (CCD): The Framework and Best Practices
 - vi. IDFR Book Launch 2023
 - vii. The Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) 2023 Graduation Ceremony
 - viii. Korean Language Course Opening Ceremony
 - ix. Mandarin Language Course Closing Ceremony
 - x. IDFR Lecture Series 3/2023: Good International Citizenship: The Case for Decency
-

Strategic Partnership

In pursuit of extending our international strategic collaborations, the Section facilitates requests for partnerships, involving the preparation and execution of Memorandum of Understanding, Letters of Intent, and Exchange of Notes.

During the 6th Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) between Malaysia and India held in New Delhi in November, officials from IDFR and Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS) had exchanged

Note Verbale. Moreover, several active negotiations are ongoing and scheduled to be concluded next year.

Publication

The Section has undertaken the publication and dissemination of two of the Institute of Foreign Relations and Diplomacy's periodic publications titled, Prospectus IDFR 2024 and IDFR Annual Report 2022.



DIPLOMATIC DISPATCH

A look into the world of diplomacy through the lens of its practitioners and policymakers



Available on Spotify

IDFRMalaysia

Diplomatic Dispatch Podcast



IDFR Publications



▶ LIST OF PROGRAMMES

LIST OF PROGRAMMES

No.	Programme	Organiser	Date	Format	Number of Participants
COURSES AND DISCOURSES					
JANUARY					
1	Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses under Sistem Pentadbiran Kerajaan Malaysia di Luar Negara (SPKM) Series 1: Grade 41 and Above	LNPD	30/1-10/2	Physical	77
FEBRUARY					
2	Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses under Sistem Pentadbiran Kerajaan Malaysia di Luar Negara (SPKM) Series 2: Grade 38 and Below	LNPD	27/2-3/3	Physical	27
MARCH					
3	Say It Right: A Course on Pronunciation	CLCD	7-9	Physical	25
4	An Induction for Foreign Diplomats in Malaysia: Malaysia's Culture and Identity	CLCD	8-9	Physical	15
5	PWP: Professional Writing Programme	CLCD	14-16	Physical	23
6	Crisis Management and Preparedness Programme	PSED	14-16	Physical	13
7	Negotiation Course for Junior Level Officers	LNPD	14-16	Physical	38
APRIL					
8	Workshop on Lobbying Efforts UNHabitat	LNPD	11-12	Physical	11
MAY					
9	Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) 2023	CEC	8/5-15/9	Physical	18
10	SiMPLE: Special Malay Proficiency Language Enhancement Programme Series 1/2023 for Locally Recruited Staff (LRS)	CLCD	2/5-25/7	Online	23
11	Introduction to Knowledge Management (KM) 1/2023	CLCD	3/5	Physical	21



No.	Programme	Organiser	Date	Format	Number of Participants
12	Leadership Course for Junior Level Officers	LNPD	9-11	Physical	31
13	Public Diplomacy Workshop for Junior Level Officers	LNPD	23-25	Physical	22
14	Arabic Level I (Series 1)	CLCD	23/5-8/8	Online	28
15	German Level I (Series 1)	CLCD	23/5-8/8	Online	24
16	French Level I (Series 1)	CLCD	23/5-8/8	Online	26
17	Course on Intercultural Communication and Cultural Diplomacy (CICAD)	CLCD	23-24	Physical	28
18	Cultural Diplomacy Lecture Series 1/2023	CLCD	26	Physical	91
19	International Protocol and Diplomacy Course for Minister's Senior Private Secretary	LNPD	31	Physical	19
20	Secretaries and Personal Assistants Essential English Development Workshop (SPEED)	CLCD	31/5-2/6	Physical	31
JUNE					
21	Making a Difference (MAD) 2023	CLCD	7-6	Physical	22
22	Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses under Sistem Pentadbiran Kerajaan Malaysia di Luar Negara (SPKM) Series 3: Grade 41 and Above	LNPD	13-22	Physical	54
23	Presentation Skills at the Workplace	CLCD	20-22	Physical	21
24	Workshop on Southeast Asia in a World of Strategic Competition: Assessing Agency and Options (IDFR-UKM-USIP)	PSED	21-22	Physical	20

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No.	Programme	Organiser	Date	Format	Number of Participants
25	International Day of Women in Diplomacy 2023 Forum Women in Diplomacy: A Spectrum of Opportunities	LNPD	23	Hybrid	100
JULY					
26	Course on the International Front (COTIF) Series 1/2023	CLCD	5-7	Physical	20
27	IDFR Distinguished Lecture Series: Prof. Kishore Mahbubani	PSED	6	Hybrid	208
28	Media Skills Workshop for Mid-Level Officers	LNPD	11-13	Physical	21
29	MTCP: Diplomatic Training Course for International Participants	PSED	23/7-1/8	Physical	15
AUGUST					
30	Course on International Diplomacy: Communication and Culture (CIDCC) for Ministry of Health	CLCD	2-3	Physical	40
31	Speech Writing Workshop for Wisma Putra Officers	CLCD	21-22	Physical	11
32	Negotiation Course for Mid-Level Officers 2023	LNPD	22-24	Physical	37
33	Mandarin Language 2023	CLCD	26/8-14/10	Physical	16
34	IDFR Distinguished Lecture Series: Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, the Governor of South Australia	CLCD	28	Hybrid	200
35	Bengkel Pemantapan Penjenamaan dan Pengurusan Media Sosial	CAS	28-30	Physical	20
36	Foreign Policy Discussed: Navigating Malaysia's Relations with Turkiye and Saudi Arabia	PSED	29	Online	17



No.	Programme	Organiser	Date	Format	Number of Participants
SEPTEMBER					
37	Forum on 'Cultural and Civilisational Diplomacy (CCD): The Framework and Best Practices'	CEC	1/9	Hybrid	100
38	Arabic Level I (Series 2)	CLCD	5/9-23/11	Online	14
39	French Level I (Series 2)	CLCD	5/9-23/11	Online	14
40	German Level I (Series 2)	CLCD	5/9-23/11	Online	27
41	MTCP: Cultural Diplomacy 2023	CLCD	5-14	Physical	16
42	SiMPLE: Special Malay Proficiency Language Enhancement Programme Series 2/2023 for Locally Recruited Staff (LRS)	CLCD	5/9-16/11	Online	35
43	Mastering Communication with Diplomacy (MC-D) 2023	CLCD	6-8	Physical	24
44	Crisis Management and Preparedness (DiD)	PSED	6,7,11	Physical	17
45	Negotiation Masterclass for the Ministry of Health Officials	LNPD	8-10	Physical	19
46	Training of Trainers: Crisis Simulation	PSED	11-14	Physical	10
47	A Malaysia - Australia - Timor Leste Trilateral Cooperation Diplomatic Training Programme for Timor-Leste Participants	PSED	18-22	Physical	14
48	Leadership Course for Mid-Level Officers	LNPD	19-21	Physical	22
49	Back to Basics: Writing Workshop for Wisma Putra Officers	CLCD	20-21	Physical	14
50	Pre-Posting Course for Heads of Mission and Spouses	CEC	29/9-3/10	Physical	15

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No.	Programme	Organiser	Date	Format	Number of Participants
OCTOBER					
51	Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses under Sistem Pentadbiran Kerajaan Malaysia di Luar Negara (SPKM) Series 5: Grade 41 and Above	LNPD	3-12	Physical	50
52	Foreign Policy Discussed 2: Malaysia's Position Between Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)	PSED	17	Online	42
53	Introduction to Korean Language 2023	CLCD	17/10-7/12	Online	24
54	Course on The International Front (COTIF) Series 2/2023	CLCD	18-20/10	Physical	20
55	Diplomatic Training Programme for Iraqi Participants	PSED	22-31/10	Physical	10
56	Bengkel Penyelarasan Perancangan Perolehan Tahun 2024	Admin & Finance	27-29/10	Physical	50
NOVEMBER					
57	IDFR Distinguished Lecture Series: Professor The Hon. Gareth Evans	LNPD	23/11	Hibrid	100
58	Bengkel Sirim ISO 29993:2017 'Understanding and Implementing' 2023	CLCD	30/11-1/12	Physical	25
DECEMBER					
59	Training Course on Excellence in Product and Brand Management for Lao PDR	CEC	4-7/12	Physical	10
60	Social Media Enhancement Workshop (Intermediate - Advanced)	CAS	11-13/12	Physical	25



No.	Programme	Organiser	Date	Format	Number of Participants
OTHERS					
61	Let's Talk: Food Security	PSED	9/1	Physical	4
62	Financial Retreat	CAS	11/1	Physical	30
63	Anugerah Pembaca Cemerlang Tahun 2022	Library	25/1	Physical	1
64	Lawatan ke Aziah Ben Yahya Solo Art "Reflections" Exhibition	CAS	23/2	Physical	30
65	Lawatan bersempena Hari Kraf Kebangsaan 2023	CAS	13/3	Physical	23
66	Bicara Buku Besama Penulis YBrS. Prof. Madya Dr. Ummu Atiyah Ahmad Zakuan "Women in the House: Leadership in the Malaysian Parliament"	Library	22/3	Online	123
67	Let's Talk: Foreign Policy Challenges in 2023	PSED	13/4	Physical	4
68	Book Sharing@IDFR YBhg. Dato' Dr Shazelina Zainul Abidin "Dewey: The Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched the World"	Library	3/5	Online	-
69	Diploma in Diplomacy 2022 Graduation Ceremony	CEC	12/5	Physical	203
70	Program Jom Baca Bersama 10 Minit	Library	18/5	Physical	56
71	Bicara Buku Sempena Program Jom Baca Bersama 10 Minit Peringkat IDFR En. Mohamad Ika Danial Abdullah "Speeches that Changed the World"	Library	18/5	Physical	56
72	Lawatan ke Pesta Buku Antarabangsa Kuala Lumpur (PBAKL) 2023	Library	31/5	Physical	20
73	Book Sharing@IDFR En. Ahmad Muziru Idham Adnan "Masharakat Chantek: Enigma Penyisihan OKU"	Library	18/7	Online	-

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No.	Programme	Organiser	Date	Format	Number of Participants
74	Pameran Mini Rukun Negara Sempena Sambutan Hari Kebangsaan dan Hari Malaysia Peringkat IDFR Tahun 2023	Library	18/8	Physical	50
75	Bicara Rukun Negara Sempena Sambutan Hari Kebangsaan dan Hari Malaysia Tahun 2023 Peringkat IDFR En. Ahmad Muziru Idham Adnan "The Rukun Negara and the Return to the Democracy in Malaysia"	Library	18/8	Physical	76
76	Hari Kesihatan IDFR	CEC	8/9	Physical	100
77	Pertandingan Kuiz Online Jejak Merdeka Sempena Sambutan Hari Kebangsaan dan Hari Malaysia Peringkat IDFR	Library	12/9	Online	29
78	Book Launch: Diplomacy Through the Pandemic	PSED	26/9	Physical	100
79	International Greentech & Eco Products Exhibition & Conference Malaysia 2022 (IGEM2022)	CAS	5/10	Physical	5
80	Majlis Perasmian Penutupan Pertandingan Akhir Gegar Pidato Piala KPPA dan Karnival Gala Budi, Bahasa dan Budaya INTAN 2023	CAS	5/10	Physical	20
81	Diploma in Diplomacy 2023 Graduation Ceremony	CEC	2/11	Physical	200
82	Hari Wisma Putra	Wisma Putra	4/11	Physical	20
83	Program Retreat IDFR 2023	CAS	18-19/11	Physical	78
84	Lawatan Berpandu Berkumpulan sempena Sambutan Hari Batik Malaysia 2023	CAS	4/12	Physical	20



No.	Programme	Organiser	Date	Format	Number of Participants
LAWATAN KE IDFR					
85	Lawatan Delegasi Sarjana Hubungan Antarabangsa dan Diplomasi, Fakulti Sains Pentadbiran dan Pengajian Polisi, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM)	CAS	20/1	Physical	14
86	Lawatan dari Bahagian Pembangunan Kompetensi (BPK) Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM)	CAS / CLCD	22/2	Physical	22
87	Lawatan Delegasi IIUM	DG	19/4	Physical	2
88	Visit by the Delegation of Junior Diplomatic School, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Indonesia	CEC	11/5	Physical	26
89	Lawatan Sambil Belajar dari Kolej Perisikan Angkatan Tentera Malaysia	CAS	21/6	Physical	35
90	Lawatan Rasmi Menteri Luar Negeri ke IDFR	CAS	10/7	Physical	5
91	Lawatan oleh Delegasi dari Universiti Malaya	CAS	23/8	Physical	5
92	Benchmarking Visit by Delegates from the Zimbabwe Foreign Service Institute (ZFSI)	CAS	6/11	Physical	6
93	Lawatan Ilmiah dari Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT)	CAS	24/11	Physical	11
94	Benchmarking Visit by H.E. Akua Sekyiwa Ahenkora, Foreign Service Institute of Ghana	CAS	18/12	Physical	5
NETWORKING SESSION					
95	Mesyuarat Pelaksanaan Program Sarjana bersama Queen Mary University London (QMUL), Universiti Malaya (UM) dan IDFR	CAS	24/2	Physical	10
96	Meeting with Women Leadership Foundation	CAS	4/4	Physical	4

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No.	Programme	Organiser	Date	Format	Number of Participants
97	Mesyuarat bersama Suruhanjaya Tinggi Maldives di Malaysia	CAS	18/4	Physical	2
98	Majlis Libat Urus bersama Rakan Strategik IDFR	CAS	18/5	Physical	150
99	Sesi Libat Urus Ketua Pengarah bersama Pempengaruh Wanita	CAS	1/6	Physical	20
100	Discussion with SEGI College	DG	14/7	Physical	3
101	Virtual Meeting with Mohammed Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa Academy for Diplomatic Studies (MBMA), Kingdom of Bahrain	CAS	5/12	Online	3
PODCAST					
102	Episode 18: The Overview of Malaysia's Foreign Policy	CAS	13/2	Online	
103	Episode 19: Media Visit to Lebanon	CAS	6/3	Online	
104	Episode 20: Finland and NATO	CAS	24/3	Online	
105	Episode 21: Malaysia's Role in International Monitoring Team (IMT)	CAS	25/5	Online	
106	Episode 22: Shaping the Next Generation of Diplomats: Role of the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR)	CAS	21/7	Online	
107	Episode 23: Malaysia in Human Rights Universal Periodic Review	CAS	15/9	Online	
108	Episode 24: Behind the Diplomat's Desk: Work-life Balance and Everything in Between	CAS	27/10	Online	
109	Episode 25: A Journey in Diplomacy and Leadership with the Chair of the Commonwealth Foundation	CAS	29/11	Online	
110	Episode 26: Gastrodiplomacy: When Food Becomes a Soft Power Tool for Diplomacy	CAS	22/12	Online	



No.	Programme	Organiser	Date	Format	Number of Participants
KM CAFÉ					
111	KM Cafe 1/2023	CLCD	13/1	Online	38
112	KM Café 2/2023	CLCD	20/1	Online	27
113	KM Café 3/2023	CLCD	27/1	Online	18
114	KM Café 4/2023	CLCD	3/2	Online	30
115	KM Café 5/2023	CLCD	10/2	Online	24
116	KM Café 6/2023	CLCD	17/2	Online	28
117	KM Café 7/2023	CLCD	24/2	Online	19
118	KM Café 8/2023	CLCD	3/3	Online	25
119	KM Café 9/2023	CLCD	10/3	Online	24
120	KM Café 10/2023	CLCD	17/3	Online	22
121	KM Café 11/2023	CLCD	24/3	Online	30
122	KM Café 12/2023	CLCD	31/3	Online	17
123	KM Café 13/2023	CLCD	7/4	Online	30
124	KM Café 14/2023	CLCD	14/4	Online	25
125	KM Café 15/2023	CLCD	5/5	Online	14
126	KM Café 16/2023	CLCD	19/5	Physical	55
127	KM Café 17/2023	CLCD	9/6	Online	27
128	KM Café 18/2023	CLCD	16/6	Online	13
129	KM Café 19/2023	CLCD	28/7	Online	28
130	KM Café 20/2023	CLCD	4/8	Online	27
131	KM Café 21/2023	CLCD	18/8	Physical	60
132	KM Café 22/2023	CLCD	25/8	Online	26
133	KM Café 23/2023	CLCD	6/10	Online	33
134	KM Café 24/2023	CLCD	15/12	Online	27

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No.	Programme	Organiser	Date	Format	Number of Participants
TACIT KNOWLEDGE					
135	KM Tacit Knowledge Sharing Session - Ambassador Sharing Session with Dato' Nor'aini Abdul Hamid	CLCD	15/2	Physical / Recording	1
136	KM Tacit Knowledge Sharing Session - Ambassador Sharing Session with H.E. Eldeen Husaini Mohd Hashim	CLCD	9/3	Physical / Recording	1
137	KM Tacit Knowledge Sharing Session - Ambassador Sharing Session with Dato' Mohd Khalid Abbasi Abdul Razak	CLCD	24/3	Physical / Recording	1
138	KM Tacit Knowledge Sharing Session - Ambassador Sharing Session with Dato' Roslan Tan Sri Abdul Rahman	CLCD	5/4	Physical / Recording	1
139	KM Tacit Knowledge Sharing Session - Ambassador Sharing Session with Ambassador Razdan Jamil	CLCD	21/6	Physical / Recording	1
PUBLICATIONS					
140	Newsletter Let's Talk: Cyber Security and Cyber Diplomacy	PSED	2/2	-	
141	Newsletter Let's Talk: Multilateralism & Food Security	PSED	30/3	-	
142	Annual Report 2022	CAS	10/5	-	
143	Foreign Relations - Law in International Relations	PSED	22/5	-	
144	Diplomacy Through the Pandemic	PSED	26/9	-	
145	Foreign Relations – Death of Multilateralism	PSED	1/11	-	
146	Prospectus 2024	CAS	26/12	-	



IN THE NEWS



42 PEGAWAI MUDA KLN TERIMA DIPLOMA DIPLOMASI
PERSEDIAAN PEMERINTAN DI LUAR NEGARA
BERITA PAGI
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Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Jalan Wisma Putra

50460 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Website: www.idfr.gov.my

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