

IDFR 2017

ANNUAL REPORT





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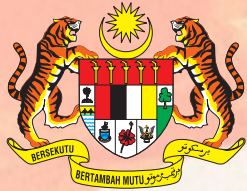
IDFR 2017 Annual Report

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MESSAGE

from the Secretary General,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia



DATO' SERI RAMLAN IBRAHIM

First and foremost, I wish to congratulate the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) for a productive 2017. As the Ministry's training arm, IDFR has always provided indispensable support to the Ministry. It has continuously strived to meet its key stakeholders' expectations of arming our diplomats with the essential knowledge and skills, and preparing them for their roles and responsibilities in protecting and promoting Malaysia's national interests, both abroad and at home.

In this very dynamic and globalised world, we are constantly faced with various global challenges and multifaceted issues of international concern. These include, among others, issues on terrorism, climate change and food security, as well as the rapid emergence of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Despite these challenges, the Ministry has clocked some significant achievements. In particular, we successfully pursued Malaysia's foreign policy interests on significant issues such as moderation; the plight of the Rohingya people; and the suffering

of the Palestinian people. We successfully negotiated the release of our countrymen from the DPRK. On top of that, we witnessed significant progress in relations with our strategic bilateral partners including US, China, India and Australia. Our ties with our ASEAN counterparts continued to be enhanced, and we remained unwavering in pursuing our regional and multilateral interests on various international platforms.

As diplomats, our prime duty is to ensure that our national interests are protected at all times. We must remain focused on our priorities, deliver on our targets and meet the expectations of our stakeholders, and most importantly, of the *rakyat*.

Since taking over as Secretary General in January of 2017, the Ministry has embarked on a transformation mission in line with the Government Transformation Programme. They involve positive transformation, constructive change and enhancement of delivery.

A key component of the Ministry's transformation is the principle of Servant Leadership. This means that as leaders – Secretary General and Deputies Secretary General; Heads of Departments and Undersecretaries at the Ministry; and Ambassadors and High Commissioners at Missions – we serve the people we lead. The focus is on meeting the needs of those being led, and in doing so, allowing for their best potential to surface. Another key element under this style of leadership is the emphasis on coaching, mentoring and encouraging, which is what the Ministry is putting into practice now. This practice will eventually allow for a sense of community and organisational pride to develop.

This will also require attitudinal change with the focus on the enhancement of professional skills. As we move forward in our careers, we must demonstrate the required skills based on our experience, exposure and learning. People who choose to be stagnant and are close-minded have no business to remain in the Foreign Service.

I have also led a series of informal engagement sessions throughout 2017 at all levels at the

Ministry. Constructive feedback received from these sessions and other sessions held at different levels by the respective leaders have contributed to the shaping of effective human resource and administrative policies at the Ministry. I am happy to note that this type of engagement sessions have also been implemented at IDFR.

With regards to training, the Ministry continues to stress the importance of our officers pursuing postgraduate degrees at the Master and PhD level. This will allow them to enhance their personal and professional career development. Therefore, aside from conducting courses and discourses to benefit the Ministry's officers as well as officers from other Ministries who are involved in the areas of diplomacy and international relations, IDFR has been tasked to further enhance its collaborations with institutions of higher learning, which will enable the Ministry to offer more postgraduate options to its officers.

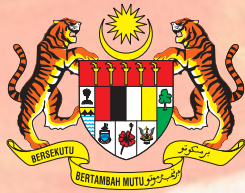
I am pleased to note that as a result of the Institute's transformation exercise, it has been able to engage the services of Research Officers from a range of academic backgrounds, bringing the current number to 17. Among others, the Research Officers have been tasked to produce regular analytical papers on key current issues of direct relevance and pertinence to the Ministry. Their ongoing development towards becoming the Institute's subject matter experts will help pave the way for IDFR to become a premier think tank on diplomacy and international relations, and contribute to the Ministry's work in promoting Malaysia's foreign policy and defending its national interests.

IDFR has an immense task on hand but I am confident that with the support, commitment and dedication of all its staff, the Institute will continue to deliver.

On behalf of the Ministry, I wish IDFR all the best.

Thank you.

DATO' SERI RAMLAN IBRAHIM



FOREWORD

by the Director General,
Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations



DATUK MOHAMAD SADIK KETHERGANY

I am very pleased to present the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations' Annual Report, which provides a glimpse of the various programmes and activities organised by IDFR throughout 2017.

The year 2017 was another eventful and exciting year for IDFR, and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the officers and staff for their commitment, hard work and esprit de corps in ensuring that all programmes, scheduled and unscheduled ones, were executed according to the plan.

As the training arm of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the core business of IDFR is the training of diplomats and diplomatic officers, both local and foreign. In 2017, under the purview of the four learning centres – Centre for Political Studies and Economic Diplomacy; Centre for Leadership, Negotiation and Public Diplomacy; Centre for Languages and Cultural Diplomacy; and Centre for Competency Enhancement; and supported by the Special Projects Division and the Management Services Division – 31 programmes/courses and

16 discourses were organised (Please refer to Appendix A). They include the *SPKM: Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses*, *International Negotiations Workshop*, *Workshop on Public Diplomacy and Media Skills*, *MTCP: Diplomatic Training Course for International Participants*, *IDFR Lecture Series* and *Culture Diplomacy Lecture Series*.

The highlight for 2017 was the Royal Address by His Royal Highness Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah Al-Maghfur-Lah, the Institute's Royal Patron, on 12 July 2017. In his Address, His Royal Highness spoke about the dynamics of the world of diplomacy, where there are now many more actors in international affairs, many more forums to operate in and the multifaceted issues to address. His Royal Highness sees the emerging playing field as exciting and full of possibilities, and advised diplomats to work together with civil societies and long established and reputable NGOs, and multinational companies to advance shared interests and national goals.

One of the Institute's flagship programmes – the Diploma in Diplomacy – was organised from 4 July 2017 for six months, and was attended by 18 bright and aspiring junior officers from the Ministry. The programme further enhanced their knowledge and skills in the art of diplomacy, prior to them being posted to serve at Malaysia's Diplomatic Missions abroad. The officers were also tasked to organise several events to complement classroom learning. Among other things, they were encouraged to plan and organise a seminar/forum of discourse in contemporary international issues as well as be involved in community service programmes.

The other flagship programme is the Master of Social Science in Strategy and Diplomacy, the joint programme with Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia which has entered its nineteenth year of collaboration. The programme saw the enrolment of fourteen local and foreign students for the 2017/2018 intake.

IDFR continued to explore collaborative efforts with local universities including Universiti Malaya,

Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Universiti Utara Malaysia and Universiti Malaysia Sarawak to offer, among others, opportunities for officers of the Ministry to pursue their postgraduate studies. This is in line with the directive of the Secretary General for officers from the Ministry to pursue academic excellence, and the call by His Royal Highness Sultan Nazrin for the Malaysian diplomatic service to be knowledge-rich.

IDFR also embarked on a new focus area, which is research work. We have engaged Research Officers to produce analytical papers on various topics of relevance to the Ministry. It is hoped that these papers and other research work would serve to complement as policy advisory papers to the Ministry in its role as the guardian of our national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and pave the way for IDFR to produce subject matter experts and ultimately become a think tank.

These were among the activities that took place in 2017. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to His Royal Highness Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah Al-Maghfur-Lah, the Sultan of Perak Darul Ridzuan for His Royal Highness' patronage. My deepest appreciation also goes to Dato' Sri Anifah Aman, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Dato' Sri Reezal Merican Naina Merican, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs; and Dato' Seri Ramlan Ibrahim, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for their guidance and continuous support for IDFR's programmes and activities. Last but not least, my deepest gratitude is extended to our Distinguished Fellows for sharing their wisdom and vast experience, and imparting advice and encouragement on the way forward for the Institute.

Thank you.

DATUK MOHAMAD SADIK KETHERGANY

The background of the slide is an abstract painting. It features large, expressive brushstrokes in shades of orange, yellow, and green. The orange strokes are prominent in the top left and bottom right, while the yellow and green strokes are more concentrated on the left side. The overall texture is painterly and organic.

Organisational Structure

Director General



Datuk Mohamad Sadik Kethergany

Office of the Director General



Seated, from left
Ms. Norhashikin Hassan, Ms. Fadhlin Jaffar, Mr. Mohd. Naufal Abdul Latiff

Centre for Political Studies and Economic Diplomacy



Seated, from left

Mr. Nik Luqman Wan Zainoddin,
Ambassador Mohammad Azhar
Mazlan (Director), Major (Rtd.) Mohd.
Ridzuan Mohd. Shariff

Back row, from left

Dr. Wirdawati Abdul Rahim,
Ms. Nik Latifah Mohd Zaki,
Mr. Gunaselvam A/L Vail, Mr. Haris
Syarwani Razali, Ms. Siti Norliza Juri,
Dr. Wan Liyana Mariah Wan Zainal
Abidin, Ms. Norfatimah Othman

Not in photo

Associate Professor Dr. Norraihan
Zakaria

Centre for Leadership, Negotiation and Public Diplomacy



Seated, from left

Mr. Muhammad Shafiy Mazlan,
Ms. Hafizah Abdullah (Director),
Mr. Imran Ariff Mohammad Amin

Back row, from left

Ms. Siti Farsha Murni Izami,
Ms. Noraziah Omar, Ms. Norazlin
Mohd. Tahir, Ms. Nik Khalilah
Nik Ab. Kadir

Centre for Languages and Cultural Diplomacy



Seated, from left
Major (Rtd.) Hadzrie Abdul Khan, Mr. Mohamad Nasri Abdul Rahman (Director), Mr. Afdal Izal Md. Hashim

Back row, from left
Ms. Wan Faizah Wan Yusoff, Ms. Haliyath Zahiyah Kamal Mustaffa, Mr. Zahir Zakaria, Mr. Agustin Gutierrez C. Abdullah, Dr. Ahmad Kamal Ariffin, Ms. Norlela Samad, Dr. Raihan Marzuki

Not in photo
Mr. Ahmad Khidir Lemin, Ms. Irma Aneeza Sani, Ms. Nazirah Nazaruddin

Centre for Competency Enhancement



Seated
Mr. Zakaria Nasir (Director)

Back row, from left
Ms. Jarin Sijaya Abdul Hathi, Ms. Deborah Tan Sue-Yuen, Ms. Nur Fazlina Basiron, Mr. Haslil Hadi Amir Hasan, Ms. Wan Hazwani Wan Hamed, Ms. Suhaiza Sabri, Ms. Norani Md Hamami

Special Projects Division



Seated, from left

Ms. Nik Latifah Mohd. Zaki, Madam Norani Ibrahim (Director), Ms. Sharizan Laily Shaharuddin

Back row, from left

Mr. Raja Saifful Raja Kamaruddin, Mr. Harvinder Singh Ramday, Mr. Khairul Kamal Abdul Rahman

Not in photo

Mr. Abdul Rahim Roslan

Management Services Division



First row, from left

Mr. Ahmad Fikri Mohd. Fauzi, Mr. Hairil Annuar Md. Salleh, Ms. Barathi Muniyandi, Mr. Dzulkefly Abdullah (Director), Mr. Zahid Rastam, Mr. Amirul Khairi Mustafa Bakri, Ms. Noraini Awang Nong

Second row, from left

Ms. Hasnah Mohd. Sharif, Ms. Fadilah Shahri, Ms. Jamaliah Jaafar, Ms. Nor'ain Hassan, Ms. Dzuitta Mohamed, Ms. Iliza Ismail, Ms. Afidah A. Manaf, Ms. Mazulina Mat Jusoh, Ms. Ida Rosyanty Ishak, Ms. Nor Azura Mior Daud

Third row, from left

Mr. Ahmad Yani Kamaruddin, Mr. Muhd. Jaafar Abdul Karim, Mr. Mohamad Fairuz Omar, Mr. Sapuri Ghazali, Mr. Alif An Naz Nazaruddin, Mr. Muhamad Syahfie Md. Salleh

Fourth row, from left

Mr. Zaimi Ahmad, Mr. Mohd. Sha'arie Amran, Mr. Mohd. Issammuddin Sayuti, Mr. Khairul Kamal Abdul Rahman, Mr. Raja Azrin Raja Azman, Mr. Azrul Nizam Abdul Rahim

Not in photo

Ms. Siti Suzani Mohamed Taib, Ms. Noor Asyirah Abd Rahman, Ms. Badriyah Johari, Ms. Asmat Zainal Abidin, Ms. Nur Idayu Abdullah, Mr. Mohammad Fitri Ghazali, Mr. Mohd. Shahhizam Che Ahmad, Mr. Aminuddin Othman, Mr. Mohd. Fairuz Asraf Ismail, Mr. Shah Rizal Mohd. Salleh, Mr. Roslan Kamarudin, Mr. Ibrahim Nor, Mr. Mohd. Zani Tukman, Mr. Nazli Thajudin, Mr. Rozaidi Abdul Razak, Mr. Raimi Amzar Zamali, Ms. Hanriyani Sahmawi, Ms. Gurnam Kaur, Ms. Nurul Huda Che Aziz, Mr. Mohd Zul Aiman Zainal Abidin, Mr. Wan Mohd Hafiz Wan Muda, Mr. Mohd. Rizaudin Mohd. Diah, Mr. Mohd Saiful Anuar Yusof, Mr. Wan Muhamad Ridzuan Basarudin, Mr. Mohd Azrul Effendy Shamsudin, Mr. Muhammad Jazlan Mathat@Minhat, Mr. Erdee Azreen Abdul Malik

The background is an abstract composition of thick, textured brushstrokes. A large, vibrant orange stroke dominates the top left corner. Below it, a yellow stroke transitions into a green one on the left side. The right side of the image is primarily a light, warm beige or cream color, with some subtle orange and pinkish tones blending in. The overall effect is painterly and organic.

Royal Patron and Distinguished Fellows

Royal Patron



His Royal Highness Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah
ibni Almarhum Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah Al-Maghfur-Lah
Sultan of Perak Darul Ridzuan

Distinguished Fellows for 2016-2020

Tan Sri Razali Ismail

Chairman, Human Rights Commission of Malaysia

Tan Sri Mohamed Jawhar Hassan

Former Chairman and Chief Executive of Institute of Strategic and International Studies Malaysia

Tan Sri Ahmad Fuzi Haji Abdul Razak

Secretary General, World Islamic Economic Forum Foundation and former Director General of IDFR

Tan Sri Hasmy Agam

Former Chairman, Human Rights Commission of Malaysia and former Executive Chairman of IDFR

Tan Sri Abdul Kadir Mohamad

Distinguished Fellow, Institute of Strategic and International Studies Malaysia

Professor Dato' Dr. Zakaria Ahmad

Senior Vice-President/Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) HELP University

Dato' Dr. Mohd. Yusof Ahmad

Former Director General of IDFR

Dr. Chandra Muzaffar

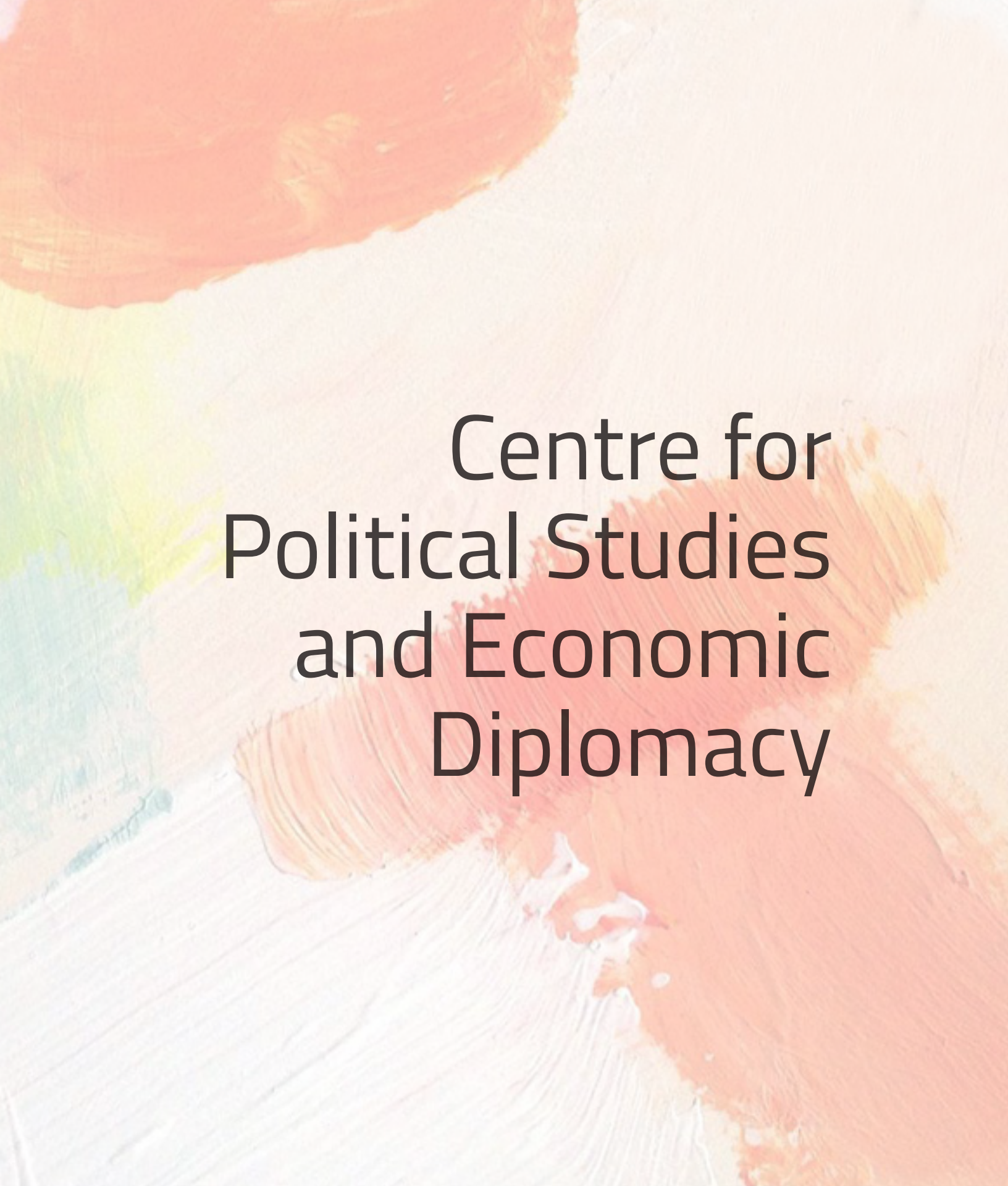
President, International Movement for a Just World

Professor Dr. K.S. Nathan

Principal Fellow, Institute for Ethnic Studies Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

Associate Professor Dr. Sufian Jusoh

Deputy Director, Institute of Malaysian and International Studies Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

The background of the image is an abstract composition of thick, textured brushstrokes. The colors are primarily warm, including various shades of orange, from light peach to deep terracotta, and bright yellow. There are also some cooler tones, such as a muted green and a pale blue-grey, which are less prominent. The strokes are layered and overlapping, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall effect is reminiscent of a modern, expressive painting.

Centre for Political Studies and Economic Diplomacy

Diplomatic Training Course for Saudi Young Diplomats 2017

On 13 March 2017, Datuk Mohamad Sadik Kethergany, the Director General of IDFR, welcomed nine young diplomats from the Prince Saud Al-Faisal Institute for Diplomatic Studies in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia for the *Diplomatic Training Course for Saudi Young Diplomats 2017*. The Saudi diplomats were led by Dr. Khalid I. Ali Al Ali, Assistant Professor at the Institute. They were in Malaysia and IDFR following Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud's month-long royal visit across Asia in February.

During the week-long course, the diplomats were exposed to modules on Malaysia's diplomatic practices, economy and national development. At the end of the course, the diplomats gave highly positive feedback and indicated that they have gained invaluable knowledge and insight from their short stint.

Ambassador Lecture Series 1/2017

The first *Ambassador Lecture Series for 2017* was delivered by the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to Malaysia on 13 April 2017. Her Excellency Başak Türkoğlu spoke to an audience of approximately 84 participants from various government agencies, universities, NGOs and think-tanks on the topic of *Turkey and the New International Dis(order)*.

H.E. Türkoğlu shared several issues on global political, economic and social (dis) order that Turkey is facing and how these elements have shaped Turkey's foreign policy approach and orientation. The shifting drivers of Turkey's foreign policy approach are demography, economy, technological advancement, extremist tendencies, questioning legitimacy of state institutions, changing nature of conflicts and climate changes, environment and health conditions. The main elements of Turkey's foreign policy are developing relations with neighbouring and regional countries, reaching out to new geographies, deepening strategic relations and playing an active role in international organisations and on international platforms.



According to H.E. Türkoğlu, Turkey's central geographical location is affected by those dynamics, and Turkey has to implement a multi-dimensional and multi-layered foreign policy that can generate peace and stability in the region and beyond.

The keywords to Turkey's foreign policy are enterprising and humanitarian. It is enterprising in the sense that Turkey takes initiatives to solve problems. The importance of this initiative is more evident than ever

in fostering mutual respect and common values among the various cultures and religions. Turkey also aims to fortify friendship among neighbouring countries through High Level Strategic Cooperation Councils (HLSCC), and has established HLSCC with 20 countries. Turkey's second foreign policy is humanitarian. Turkey believes that it is not enough to provide humanitarian aid – one must also work on the reasons behind the humanitarian crisis. Turkey is the second biggest humanitarian donor after the US and is the most generous humanitarian actor in terms of GDP allocated for humanitarian assistance, in which it provided an official development aid amounting to USD3.9 billion in 2015. Turkey also hosted the first ever World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul in 2016 which served as a unique platform for the international humanitarian community to address the current challenges of the systems. It was also the biggest UN summit ever held outside of New York.

H.E. Türkoğlu stated that according to UNHCR figures, Turkey is the biggest host country to host around three million Syrians and Iraqis who seek refuge in the country. She added that there is a pressing need for burden-sharing. Unfortunately, the international communities have so far failed the test of burden-sharing with Turkey. This is why Turkey has been actively promoting a solution based on a democratic, inclusive and non-sectarian system while preserving Syria's political unity and territorial integrity. To this end, Turkey has launched concrete initiatives, one of which is how enterprising foreign policy is also humanitarian at the same time.

MTCP: Diplomatic Training Course for International Participants 2017

IDFR welcomed 15 international participants from Bahrain, Cambodia, Egypt, Fiji, Kuwait, Lao PDR, Maldives, Morocco, Nigeria, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Turkmenistan, Togo, Zimbabwe and two Malaysian participants from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the *Diplomatic Training Course for International Participants 2017*, held from 17 to 28 April 2017.



During the two week-long course organised under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP), the participants were exposed to essential diplomatic traits and competencies in various aspects of theories, practices and elements of diplomacy and international affairs in Malaysia's context. Themes covered include *Malaysia's Foreign Policy, Malaysia in ASEAN, International Negotiations, Crisis Management, Intelligence and National Security, Media Relations and Media Skills, Law of the Sea Convention 1982 and Its Impacts on Recent Development in Southeast Asia, International Humanitarian Issues and Challenges, Countering the Terrorists' Narrative and Blue Ocean Strategy*.

The programme also included visits to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia External Trade Development Cooperation, Kuala Lumpur Craft Complex and Malaysia Tourism Centre, as well as to the state of Malacca to be introduced to Malaysia's rich history and culture.

The Closing and Certificate Presentation Ceremony, held on 28 April 2017, was also attended by H.E. Mohammed Reda Benkhaldoun, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco to Malaysia, representatives from other embassies, and senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Ilisapeci Tauri Rayawa, the participant from Fiji, said of the course: "This was a great opportunity for me to experience life in Malaysia, to learn from other countries represented in the course, and to develop new friendship and network. The course also allowed me to learn new skills which will enable me to effectively carry out my duties".

Ambassador Lecture Series 2/2017

The *Ambassador Lecture Series 2/2017* was held on 9 May 2017. The speaker was His Excellency Emir Hadžikadunić, Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Malaysia who spoke on *Bosnia and Herzegovina and European and Euro-Atlantic Integrations*.



Among others, H.E. Hadžikadunić addressed issues on Bosnia and Herzegovina's accession into the European Union (EU) and the positive changes that occurred during this phase as well as the country's aspiration to become a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

According to H.E. Hadžikadunić, Bosnia and Herzegovina declared its independence in March 1992. However, the Serb ethnic group disagreed with the independence referendum, and an international armed conflict took place between 1992 and 1995 causing the death of more than 100,000 people and the displacement of two million people. In 1995, the Dayton Peace Agreement was signed which ended the conflict and retained Bosnia and Herzegovina's international boundaries. A multi-ethnic and democratic government was created by implementing a rotating presidency. Since the signing of the agreement, Bosnia and Herzegovina's relations with neighbours Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro have been fairly stable.

Membership in the EU is one of Bosnia and Herzegovina's main political objectives. However, it needs to fulfil all the requirements and conditions before it is accepted as a member. Bosnia and Herzegovina has passed the early phase of association and is currently at the membership application phase.

With regards to its membership in NATO, Bosnia and Herzegovina has also received the Membership Action Plan from the organisation.

The lecture was attended by 60 participants from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other government agencies, representatives from NGOs, academics and university students.

IDFR Lecture Series 1/2017

On 14 June 2017, IDFR had the privilege to welcome Professor Timothy J. Colton, who is Morris and Anna Feldberg Professor of Government and Russian Studies at Harvard University, as guest speaker at *IDFR Lecture Series 1/2017*. The title of Professor Colton's lecture was *A Trump 'Reset' with Russia? Implications for East Asia*.

Professor Colton commenced the lecture by deliberating on President Trump's foreign policy. According to Professor Colton, one of the few foreign policy changes Trump consistently advocated when he was running for the presidency was towards an improved relationship with Russia. However, not much change has taken place since his inauguration. Professor Colton's lecture offered explanation for this puzzling situation: among others, President Trump's limited knowledge and experience on foreign policy, internal resistance to President Trump's initiatives, and allegations of meddling by Russian officials during the election. Professor Colton did stress that his lecture is based on current events and things could change in the future.

Professor Colton stated that there was not much focus on East Asia at that point in time. President Trump did not have a team in place; for example, in June, he still did not have an Assistant Secretary for Asia.

Professor Colton mentioned that if US-Russia relations do not improve or if it deteriorates, it may lead to an even larger enthusiasm for Moscow to move towards China's position on a wide range of issues. Another consequence is that Russia will have more incentive than ever to deepen its relations with Japan. He argued that strong economic interest is among the driver that will draw Russia to reaffirm its partnership with the two countries. Professor Colton also stated that based on his experience, many Russians have reservations about the possibility of being forced into a 'younger brother' role, which is not one that they would be comfortable with. However, he summed up his lecture by saying that it is important for the situation to be monitored closely.



The discourse was attended by officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, IDFR's Distinguished Fellows, representatives from think tanks and research institutes, and lecturers and students from universities.

Discourse on Malaysia's Membership of the UN Security Council (2015-2016)

On 16 October 2014, Malaysia was elected as a Non-Permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the fourth time. Malaysia's latest membership in the UNSC – from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2016 – was led by His Excellency Dato' Seri Ramlan Ibrahim, Malaysia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and under his leadership, Malaysia continued to contribute greatly to the international body.



On 19 July 2017, IDFR played host to a discourse titled *Reflections on Malaysia's Membership of the UN Security Council (2015-2016)* with Dato' Seri Ramlan, who is now Secretary General of the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs. The aim of the discourse was to share Malaysia's latest experience at the UNSC with government officials, former diplomats, scholars and academicians, and university students.

In his Welcoming Remarks, Datuk Mohamad Sadik Kethergany, IDFR's Director General, briefly highlighted Malaysia's crucial involvement in the UN and in the UNSC. He added that the discourse was the first time that a former Permanent Representative to the UN had shared Malaysia's experience at the UNSC with scholars and academicians, and other practitioners of international relations.

Dato' Seri Ramlan began the discourse by highlighting that Malaysia's campaign for the UNSC was under the theme *Peace and Security through Moderation* and Malaysia pursued the following priorities: promoting moderation as an approach and mediation as a tool for peaceful settlement of disputes; promoting the enhancement of UN peacekeeping operations; supporting peace building in countries emerging from conflict; and encouraging continued discussion on the comprehensive UNSC reform.

Among Malaysia's numerous contributions and achievements during the term were on the issue of Palestine, which culminated in the adoption of Resolution 2334 in December 2016; the issue of children and armed conflict, which saw the adoption of Resolution 2225 in June 2015; the issue of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-state actors, where Malaysia hosted a High-Level Open Debate in August 2016; and on the issue of humanitarian, Malaysia consistently advocated actions and supported efforts aimed at alleviating the humanitarian sufferings of the people affected.

IDFR hopes to organise more knowledge-sharing sessions on Malaysia's experience at various multilateral fora.

MTCP: Strategic Analysis for International Participants 2017



The above MTCP funded course was held at IDFR from 14 to 24 August 2017. The two-week programme was attended by 13 participants from Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Fiji, Georgia, Kenya, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mauritania, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Uzbekistan and Vietnam.

Among the modules conducted were *Introduction to Malaysia's Foreign Policy*, *Scenario Planning and Future Studies*, *International Negotiations Analytical Tools for Thorough Preparation*, *Strategic Thinking*, *Blue Ocean Strategy*, *An Overview of Wisma Putra*, *MTCP: Malaysia's Commitment Toward South-South Cooperation*, and *Discourse of Strategy and Countering the Terrorists' Narrative*.

Besides visiting Masjid Negara (National Mosque) and Dataran Merdeka (Independence Square), the participants were also introduced to Malaysia's state level governance through a four-day visit to the state

of Sabah. There, aside from attending discussions and briefing sessions, they were also able to experience the rich history and culture of Malaysia through visits to Sabah Park, Sabah Tea Garden and Gaya Island.

Based on the feedback received, the participants were of the view that the course has contributed to the growth of their diplomatic careers, especially in theoretical knowledge and practical skills in the areas of negotiations, scenario planning, security, international relations and diplomacy.

Malaysia-Australia Young Diplomats' Round Table 2017



The Malaysia-Australia Young Diplomats Round Table is a biennial programme which aims to strengthen the relationship between Australia and Malaysia through stronger networking. It is organised in Kuala Lumpur and Canberra on a rotation basis.

The fifth Malaysia-Australia Young Diplomats Round Table was held at IDFR from 6 to 8 September 2017. Datuk Mohamad Sadik Kethergany and H.E. Rod Smith, Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia, welcomed 24 Australian and Malaysian young diplomats to the programme.

The three-day programme was designed to enhance cooperation and networking among the young diplomats and to provide them with the opportunity to participate in lectures and discussion sessions on issues of interest to both Malaysia and Australia. It reinforces the two countries' strong ties, mutual experience and common goals. The young diplomats also had the opportunity to share their countries' best practices and cultivate the culture of dialogue. Aside from the classroom activities, the young diplomats were also feted to a luncheon hosted by Datuk Mohamad Sadik at IDFR and a reception hosted by H.E. Rod Smith at his official residence.

The next Malaysia-Australia Young Diplomats Round Table will be hosted by Australia in 2019.

Economic Diplomacy Series: Negotiation Issues on Food Labels (Malaysia) - Case on Halal

Dr. Christian Häberli, IDFR's Visiting Fellow from the World Trade Institute, delivered a lecture titled *Negotiation Issues on Food Labels (Malaysia) - Case on Halal* under the *Economic Diplomacy Series* on 27 September 2017.



In the lecture, Dr. Häberli touched on the economic potential of *halal* in the global market, which is predicted to reach USD6.4 trillion in 2018, and highlighted how this industry may be to Malaysia's advantage. However, he remained wary on the real concerns behind the *halal* labelling generally because it may possess similarities with that of organic labels – same disorientation. Within the context of World

Trade Organisation (WTO) rules, Dr. Häberli emphasised that despite WTO's general principle of non-discrimination, it reserves the rights to take necessary measures if the *halal* labelling was used as a disguised protectionism. He also suggested that *halal* labelling should not be used if it may raise doubt about the safety of similar foods or claims that *halal* foods are nutritionally superior to, or healthier than, non-*halal* foods. Despite this challenge, Dr. Häberli concluded that the *halal* markets are substantially dynamic and could add value in the food chain open system.

The lecture was attended by representatives from various government agencies, think-tanks and universities, including officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, Department of Veterinary, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation and the Agriculture Section of the Australian High Commission in Kuala Lumpur.

MTCP: Economic Diplomacy for International Participants Course 2017

IDFR organised the MTCP: *Economic Diplomacy for International Participants Course 2017* from 16 to 27 October 2017. The course, funded by the MTCP, was designed to enhance the participants' knowledge on economic planning and policies, negotiations, investment and trade, as well as to expose them to the changing geopolitical, economic and strategic global environment.

Seventeen participants from 15 countries attended the course. They were from Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Georgia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Nepal, the Philippines, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand and Zimbabwe.



Among the special focus areas covered were *International Trade, Bilateral and Multilateral Trade Agreement and Process, Role of Private Sector in Economic Diplomacy, Designing Investment Policy, the Open Sky Policy and Trade Trends in 2017*. There were also lectures on *Scenario Planning and Future Studies, Economic Report Analysis, ASEAN Economic Community and Cross-Cultural Negotiations*.

IDFR Lecture Series 2/2017

IDFR organised its second *IDFR Lecture Series* for 2017 on 19 October 2017. The lecture titled *ASEAN-Australia Relationship and the 2018 Special Summit* was delivered by Ambassador Jane Duke, Australia's Ambassador to ASEAN.

In her lecture, Ambassador Duke acknowledged ASEAN's importance to regional peace, stability and prosperity, and added that she has been looking forward to the opportunity to discuss Australia's relations with ASEAN, and the country's plans for the 2018 ASEAN-Australia Special Summit in Sydney on 17 and 18 March 2018, which aims to strengthen Australia's partnership with ASEAN and generate fresh momentum as ASEAN enters its next 50 years.

In terms of political security, Ambassador Duke stated that the world is witnessing a historic shift of power in the region, and ASEAN's response to these challenges has the potential to shape expectations of acceptable strategic behaviour and reinforce a culture that respects international norms. ASEAN's ability to speak as one also gives it greater influence on the global stage. The challenge for ASEAN is to sustain a more complex future, which it is well placed to do through forums such as the East Asia Summit, the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus, and the ASEAN Regional Forum; all of which Australia is a member of.

Ambassador Duke added that ASEAN is also very important to Australia's economic prosperity. It is the country's third largest trading partner – accounting for approximately AUD\$93 billion in two-way trade.

The foundation for Australia's strong ties with ASEAN is their long standing and extensive people-to-people links. These close personal ties have been forged through education and through Australia's diaspora communities. Ambassador Duke provided some figures to support this: nearly 20 per cent of international students in Australia come from ASEAN member states; over 1.3 million Australian residents were born in ASEAN countries or have Southeast Asian ancestry, and more than 115,000 Malaysian-born people live in Australia.

Ambassador Duke also emphasised that Australia and ASEAN relations are at a high point. Among others, Australia has extensive cooperation across ASEAN's three pillars and regular Ministerial and senior official level dialogues in different sectors.



The Australia's Ambassador to ASEAN concluded her lecture by informing the audience that Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has invited the ten ASEAN leaders to the Special Summit.

Workshop for Liaison Officers for the Ninth Session of the World Urban Forum

At the request of the Ministry of Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government, a workshop for Liaison Officers in preparation for the Ninth Session of the World Urban Forum in February 2018 was conducted at IDFR. The workshop was held over three consecutive weeks – from 23 to 27 October, from 30 October to 3 November and from 6 to 6 November.

The objectives of the workshop were to prepare the participants for their task as Liaison Officers and to enhance their knowledge and interpersonal skills in dealing with VIPs and foreign delegates. The participants were also exposed to the various aspects of their duties and responsibilities pertaining to etiquette, grooming and communication skills. A total of 151 government officers from various ministries and agencies attended the workshop.



The background of the image is an abstract composition of thick, textured brushstrokes. The top left corner features a large, vibrant orange stroke. Below it, on the left side, are strokes of yellow and light green. The right side of the image is dominated by a large, warm orange stroke that extends from the top right towards the bottom. The bottom left corner shows a white stroke with fine, parallel lines, suggesting a different texture or a lighter layer. The overall effect is a dynamic and colorful abstract backdrop.

Centre for Leadership, Negotiation and Public Diplomacy

SPKM: Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses (Series 1 to Series 5/2017)

The course is a mandatory course for government officers and their spouses with the aim to enhance and develop their skills, knowledge and competency in the field of diplomacy and international diplomatic practices, prior to their postings abroad. This is in line with the directive under *Surat Pekeliling Am Bilangan 2 Tahun 2009 "Sistem Pentadbiran Kerajaan Malaysia (SPKM) di Luar Negeri"* dated 29 August 2009 and the decision from first meeting of *Jawatankuasa Penyelarasan dan Pemantauan Sistem Pentadbiran Kerajaan Malaysia di Luar Negeri* on 23 September 2009.

In 2017, IDFR successfully organised five series of the course: Series 1 was held from 13 to 22 February; Series 2 from 17 to 21 July; Series 3 from 8 to 17 August; Series 4 from 11 to 20 September; and Series 5 from 23 to 27 October. A total of 231 officers from 20 ministries and government agencies and their spouses, attended the course.



Each eight-day course covered a wide range of important and relevant topics that are pivotal in enhancing the participants' competencies and abilities to perform effectively at Malaysian Diplomatic Missions abroad. They were exposed to key policies, guidelines and relevant practical set of skills with special emphasis on the enhancement of their roles and responsibilities at Missions. Among the important modules covered were *Malaysia's Foreign Policy; Malaysia's Public Diplomacy and Media Skills; Cross-Cultural Awareness; Grooming, Social and Fine Dining Etiquette; Consular Works at Mission; Protocol Matters Related to Foreign Service*; as well as in-depth discussions on *Administrative and Security Matters at Mission*. The participants were also given special briefings on national security and the importance of ethics and integrity in strengthening their accountability at Missions.

Young Diplomats Programme for Johor Student Leaders' Council (JSLC)

IDFR once again collaborated with the Johor Education Department and the Iskandar Regional Development Authority (IRDA) to organise the *Young Diplomats Programme for Johor Student Leaders' Council (JSLC)*. Held from 13 to 17 March 2017, selected 16-year old student leaders from several secondary schools in Johor benefited from the five-day programme.

The Young Diplomats Programme aims to provide the student leaders with the exposure in and knowledge of diplomacy and diplomatic practices. During the programme, the students were introduced to the topics

of *Malaysia's Foreign Policy, Roles and Functions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Roles and Functions of Malaysian Missions Abroad, Consular Work at Missions, the importance of Public Diplomacy and Media Relations, ASEAN Matters, Negotiation and United Nations General Assembly*. In addition, the students were also given hands-on training in presentation skills and social etiquette.

Among the highlights of the programme were the visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a study tour to the Australian High Commission in Kuala Lumpur. The visit to the Ministry was a golden opportunity for the students to engage with Malaysian diplomats on Malaysia's foreign policy. At the Australian High Commission, the student leaders were given a briefing on the High Commission's roles and functions. By visiting the Ministry and the Australian High Commission, the student leaders were able to relate to the importance of Malaysian diplomacy and foreign policy in maintaining good relations with other countries.

The programme ended on a high note with a Closing and Certificate Presentation ceremony on 17 March 2017. Ambassador Norman Muhamad, Director of the Centre for Political Studies and Economic Diplomacy delivered the Closing Remarks on behalf of the Director of the Centre, and presented the certificate of attendance to the participants. The vote of thanks from JSLC was delivered by JSL Anis Nazira Razali, the appointed representative.

The Centre is honoured to have had the opportunity to foster diplomatic learning experience among our young leaders and looks forward to future collaborations with the Johor Education Department and IRDA.



Workshop on Public Diplomacy and Media Skills

Public diplomacy is considered one of the integral parts of diplomatic practices that require special strategies and specific skills. In order to help strengthen government officials' competency in public diplomacy, IDFR organised the *Workshop on Public Diplomacy and Media Skills* from 23 to 25 May 2017.

A total of 27 officials from the Prime Minister's Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Communications and Multimedia, Malaysian Investment Development Authority, Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation, Immigration Department of Malaysia, Royal Malaysian Customs Department, Royal Malaysia Police, Department of Islamic Development Malaysia and Kedah State Government, attended the workshop.

The participants were exposed to the importance of public diplomacy in promoting and protecting Malaysia's interests as well as the sets of skill required to handle the media effectively. Among the modules for the workshop were *the Evolution of Malaysia's Public Diplomacy*; *Media Handling during Crisis*; and *Public Diplomacy: Engaging New Media and Civil Society*. To add further understanding on the topic of *Evolution of Malaysia's Public Diplomacy*, the participants visited the *Diplomacy@60: Then and Now* exhibition held at the National Museum.



The participants also engaged in a dialogue session under the *Role of Media in Public Diplomacy* module. They then underwent simulation exercises on media interview, press conference and press release communication. The workshop ended on a high note with a Closing and Certificate Presentation ceremony on the last day.

Diplomatic Training Course for Universiti Malaysia Sabah 2017

IDFR conducted a one week diplomatic training course for 27 students and staff from Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and the Perdana Fellowship from 21 to 25 August 2017. The course was part of the outreach and public diplomacy programme under the auspices of the office of Dato' Sri Anifah Haji Aman, Minister of Foreign Affairs, who is also the university's Mentor Minister. This is the second time that IDFR has been entrusted to conduct the above course for UMS; the first was in 2015.

The course was designed to provide exposure and to instil deep interest in diplomacy and international relations among the participants. Through the five-day course, the participants gained better understanding and new insights into diplomacy and diplomatic practices. The information, knowledge and practical guide shared during the course were invaluable in enhancing their understanding of the complexity of today's diplomacy and international affairs. They also reflected the demanding and challenging tasks that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Malaysian diplomats face in discharging their responsibilities both at home and abroad.

The highlight of the course was the study visits to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the British High Commission in Kuala Lumpur. The visits provided the participants with a better understanding of the workings of the Ministry and a foreign diplomatic Mission.



IDFR was honoured to have had the opportunity to conduct the course and welcomes future collaborations with UMS in niche areas which are mutually beneficial.

Leadership Course for Mid-Level Diplomats and Attachés

"Leadership is about unlocking people's potential to become better." To be a good leader, one has to be aware of his/her own potential and he/she must also be equipped with comprehensive leadership skills required in the organisation.

In line with the growing importance of leadership skills and with the aim to enhance competency and potential among government officers, IDFR once again organised the *Leadership Course for Mid-Level Diplomats and Attachés* in 2017, from 26 to 28 September. A total of 26 participants from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation, Malaysian Investment Development Authority and Tourism Malaysia attended the three-day course.

The course was specially designed with the experts from the Malaysian diplomatic service as well as leading consultants. The participants thoroughly enjoyed the interactive sessions and considered the simulation exercises and the discussions as insightful and beneficial. For the first two days of the course, the participants were exposed to various techniques and leadership tools through the following modules: *Leadership in the 21st Century, Self-Assessment, Communication Styles, and the Principles of Excellence, Setting up the Right Attitude and Building Network and Teamwork*. On the last day, the participants were given exposure to leadership at Mission through a series of discussions with experts in the field. During the session, the experts shared with the participants the leadership requirements for diplomats at Mission; the pivotal leadership competency during crisis, and the leadership requirements in handling disaster at Mission.

International Negotiations Workshop 2017



IDFR conducted the above workshop from 31 October to 3 November 2017. The four-day workshop was organised with the aim to enhance the participants' competency and skills in international negotiations vis-à-vis the challenges in international affairs and diplomacy. The workshop also enabled the participants to effectively examine their own strengths and gaps as negotiators, and to develop an action plan to enhance their competency.

Throughout the workshop, the participants were provided in-depth exposure to the scope, process, preparation and techniques of effective negotiations. They were also provided with a tool-kit to guide them in enhancing their skills to negotiate more effectively through various simulation exercises and role plays. The debriefing sessions and the individual negotiation profiling were very valuable and helpful in assessing the participants' potential as future negotiators. On the final day of the workshop, the participants had the opportunity to interact with expert negotiators involved in negotiating for Malaysia at various international trade and judicial fora. The interactive sessions provided the participants with the realities on the ground and the relevancy of the workshop to government officials, especially to Malaysian diplomats.

The workshop was attended by selected officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Prime Minister's Department, and Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

The background is an abstract painting with visible brushstrokes. It features large areas of orange and red, with some yellow and green on the left side. The texture is painterly and expressive.

Centre for Languages and Cultural Diplomacy

LANGUAGE PROGRAMMES

Say it Right: A Course on Pronunciation



The above course was conducted from 14 to 16 February 2017. It was attended by 18 participants from the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Communications and Multimedia, Parliament of Malaysia, Department of Social Welfare, Department of Labour, Election Commission of Malaysia and the Aminuddin Baki Institute.

The objectives of the course were to raise the participants' awareness on the sound system of the English language, improve their pronunciation and enable them to communicate more confidently

in the language. One of the modules focused on the problem area which Malaysians normally face – pronouncing certain sounds which are not in the Malay language. Additionally, the participants were given insights into the rhythm, stress and intonation of the English language. They also had the opportunity to practise aspects of the sounds through games, role-plays, songs and simulation exercises, which helped them to be more confident and comfortable in using the language.

The course received favourable response from the participants. In general, they agreed that the course helped to polish and refine their pronunciation, and they felt driven to further improve their spoken communication.

Presentation Skills at the Workplace

The *Presentation Skills at the Workplace* course was conducted from 10 to 13 July 2017, and among the participants who attended this course were from the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Human Resources, Fire and Rescue Department of Malaysia and National Sports Institute.

Taking into consideration that speaking in front of a group is a daunting and challenging task for most people but nevertheless necessary, the course aimed to help the participants to overcome their fear of presenting in front of their colleagues.

The participants were exposed to the various aspects and techniques in presenting at the workplace. The participants were also exposed to the right kind of language, elements of delivery, developing and using visual aids, conquering nervousness, and handling questions and answers. The course also helped the

participants to pace their speech and use their voice to create impact in their delivery through the use of stress, intonation, pacing and pausing.

The participants gave favourable feedback to the course. They were of the view that the course materials were well planned and sequenced accordingly. The course content were easy to absorb and could be adapted to suit different types of public speaking and presentations.



Building Blocks of Good English

This five-day grammar course was conducted from 23 to 27 October 2017 for participants from the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Department of Labour, Department of National Audit, Department of Environment, Royal Malaysian Air Force, and Institute of Medical Research.

The objectives of the course were to enable the participants to build their confidence in using the language and to demonstrate the use of the language in a variety of context. The course dealt with general problem areas such as subject-verb agreement, verbs, tenses and the correct structure of different question types.

The participants were of the view that the course helped to enhance their English language proficiency, and made them more aware of the vital role that fluency and accuracy play in ensuring effective communication.

Arabic Level I

The above course was designed for officers from various ministries and government agencies who wish to acquire basic Arabic language skills. It was conducted from 2 February to 18 April 2017, twice a week in the evenings for a total of 42 hours.

The objective of this course was to equip the participants with the basic rudiments of the Arabic language pertaining to words and phrases for greetings and introducing oneself, and expressions to convey wishes and preferences. This course also gave them the opportunity to learn the skills of listening, speaking and understanding basic conversations in Arabic.

During their oral presentation, the participants showed a commendable grasp of the language. At the end of the course, they were of the opinion that the course was also beneficial in helping them to understand the benefits and importance of learning Arabic.

The objective of the 42-hour course was to impart to the participants simple phrases and expressions to describe places and people they know, and to equip them with the required expressions needed to communicate in various social contexts. They were also taught to write short and simple texts, and to fill out simple application forms in Spanish.

Fundamental Conversational Malay

This course was conducted for diplomats from the Foreign Missions in Kuala Lumpur. The objective of this course was to expose the participants to the basics of conversational Malay and to help them gain a better understanding of the Malay culture, in order to help them in their day-to-day interactions.

The Level 1 course was conducted twice in 2017: the first was held from 10 January to 28 March, while the second started on 7 November and will end in May 2018. The Level II course was conducted from 25 April to 13 July 2017, upon the conclusion of the first Level 1 course.

In order to raise the participants' confidence in using the language, an integrated teaching and learning methodology was adopted. The participants were given the opportunity to interact, ask questions and deliver a speech in Malay. They were also exposed to the Malay pronunciation and spelling convention, and the nuances of the language.

English Language Module

The above module is an integral component of the Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) programme. The module focuses on enhancing the participants' linguistic skills through confidence-building, accuracy and fluency activities, thus making them more competent in using the language as a tool for diplomatic communication.

Foreign Language Modules

Each DiD participant is required to learn a foreign language. The modules – comprising Arabic, French, Mandarin and Spanish – were designed to equip the DiD participants with basic knowledge of the chosen language and its respective culture, and to assist them to cope with the requirements of working and travelling in countries that use that language.

Malay Language Module

The aim of the Malay language module was to enhance the DiD participants' proficiency in writing official letters, minutes of meetings, memos and reports using the correct written convention used by the public sector. They were also exposed to the errors and pitfalls in Malay writing and pronunciation. The participants were also taught how to communicate effectively in the Malay language and to have a better understanding of the nuances of the language.

CULTURAL DIPLOMACY PROGRAMMES

Cultural Diplomacy Lecture Series 1/2017



The first Cultural Diplomacy Lecture Series for 2017 titled *The Interface between Religion and Culture* was successfully organised by the Centre on 28 March 2017. The speaker was Dr. Muhammad Salah, a prominent Islamic scholar in the United States.

In his lecture, Dr. Muhammad Salah deliberated on the fundamental acceptance of a “good” culture in Islam. Islam is far from rigid when it comes to cultural practices. He expressed a strong stance that Islam has never rejected any culture which is presumed good for the society and which brings positive

emotional and physical outcomes. Dr Muhammad Salah supported this concept by relating the story of *Hilful Fudhur*, a treaty inked by the different races in Mecca to protect all individuals from mistreatment, which was later approved by Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him)

Dr. Muhammad Salah also pointed out that the need to teach and disseminate understanding of religions is important. He suggested for Muslims to share the true practice and teachings of Islam with non-Muslims. This would provide a real and clearer picture that Islam practises a high level of tolerance.

Dr. Muhammad Salah also reminded the audience that no matter how great any culture is, it should be safeguarded by proper supervision. He shared how the Islamic culture is supervised by the understanding that Allah watches each and every action even if it happens behind closed doors.

Workshop on Intercultural Communication and Diplomacy

The main objectives of the workshop were to raise the participants’ awareness on cultural diversity; enhance their understanding on the interconnectedness between culture and diplomacy; and provide them with the exposure to the nuances of cross-cultural communication.

Held from 5 to 7 September 2017, the focus of workshop was on cultural diplomacy within the ASEAN context. The highlight of the three-day workshop was a lecture by His Excellency John Subritzky, New Zealand High Commissioner to Malaysia on the topic of *New Zealand’s Cultural Diplomacy*.

In his lecture, Ambassador Subritzky said that New Zealand has had a long history with regards to cultural diplomacy. The country's first New Zealand High Commissioner to Malaysia was Charles Bennett: a Maori leader, soldier, diplomat and statesman. In Malaysia, Bennett established a very close friendship with Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman and Deputy Prime Minister Tun Abdul Razak. The personal friendship and the people-to-people relationship with the highest level that he supported and built was a great foundation for bilateral relationship.



Ambassador Subritzky then gave an overview of New Zealand and its identity. It is a country of values such as quality and fairness, democracy, freedom of speech, human rights and open economies, strong belief in the rule of law and security of the global commons in the multilateral system. New Zealand is also a diverse nation. In terms of ethnicity, roughly two-thirds of New Zealanders are Europeans, about 15 per cent are Maori, about 12 per cent are Asians, and six percent are from the Pacific. It is also a nation that is

founded on biculturalism. Ambassador Subritzky added that the High Commission will be focusing on the 60th anniversary of New Zealand-Malaysia diplomatic relations. The anniversary is an opportunity for both countries to celebrate the past, reflect on what have been achieved together and look forward to a vibrant partnership in the future.

Cultural Diplomacy Lecture Series 2/2017

The lecture, titled *Promoting Malaysia's Cultural Diplomacy*, was delivered by Dato' Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz, Minister of Tourism and Culture on 12 October 2017.

In his lecture, Dato' Seri Mohamed Nazri said that Malaysia's National Culture Policy was formulated in 1971, and has set guidelines for designing, formulating and sustaining Malaysia's national identity, which is one of moderation and inclusivity. He added that Malaysia has signed 106 cultural agreements with, among others, India, China, Japan, South Korea, Russia and the ASEAN member states, and these agreements have allowed Malaysia and the partners to officially pursue exchange programmes, dance and musical performances, and other related cultural activities. Among the activities was the Malaysia Culture Week, an annual event that promotes and enhances awareness of Malaysia's cultural diversity among foreign communities. The first and subsequent events were held in London, and in recent years, in Istanbul, Paris and then Baku. Malaysia also participates in world tourism expositions such as the Internationale



Tourismus Börse Berlin, the world's largest tourism trade fair; World Travel Mart in London; and the Festive Decorations around the World exhibition in Seoul, to promote and to further raise awareness about Malaysia's cultural diversity. However, Malaysia's effort is not just focused overseas. Locally, it also organises many cultural festivals, including Citrawarna; and Kuala Lumpur International Craft Festival.

Moving forward, Dato' Seri Mohamed Nazri said that the strategy and implementation of Malaysia's cultural diplomacy can be further enhanced by restoring, preserving and developing culture towards strengthening national culture via joint research, development, education, and cultural expansion and connections; enhancing and strengthening cultural leadership through training and guidance to interested individuals; supporting and mobilizing culture as an effective engine of growth; establishing effective communication to instil national awareness and Malaysian nationalism; fulfilling socio-cultural needs; and improving the standard and quality of the arts.



Centre for Competency Enhancement

Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) 2017

The six-month *Diploma in Diplomacy* (DiD) programme for 2017 was held from 4 July 2017 to 11 January 2018, and was attended by 18 officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Five modules were covered in the programme, namely, *Diplomatic and Employability Skills*, *Diplomacy*, *Soft Diplomacy*, *International Relations*, and *Regional and International Affairs*. The modules were designed to provide the junior officers who will serve as Malaysian diplomats abroad with comprehensive training to enable them to perform their tasks successfully, professionally and efficiently. The scope of the modules cover basic principles and foundations of practices in diplomacy and international relations, its contemporary setting and current issues. The modules also introduced several pertinent disciplines of diplomacy, which includes practices in diplomacy, Malaysia's bilateral and multilateral relations, trade and economic diplomacy, and multiculturalism. They also addressed important aspects of public diplomacy and media relations, in line with the current diplomatic setting influenced by increasing media role in the international scenario, and highlighted the issues and challenges caused by globalisation.

The officers were also required to submit a research paper on relevant topics. They were also expected to organise events such as panel discussions, community service programmes and visits as part of their learning process.

Among the events were:

◆ Community Service Programme to Pulau Redang

The DiD officers travelled to Pulau Redang, Terengganu on 1 October 2017 to take part in a community service programme. The programme aimed to create awareness on the importance of marine conservation and enhance the officers' understanding on the responsibilities of the relevant Malaysian authorities concerning marine ecosystem. They also participated in a beach-cleaning activity.

The officers received a warm welcome from officials from the Department of Marine Park when they arrived on Pulau Pinang, a sub-island off Pulau Redang, where one of the marine parks is located.

During the beach-cleaning activity, the officers had to ensure that they do not remove any sea creatures from the beach. This is part of the guidelines enforced at the marine park as external intervention could affect the stability of the marine ecosystem. The officers were later given the opportunity to snorkel in the marine park area, where they witnessed colourful schools of fish, varieties of coral reefs and the presence of exotic creatures such as jelly fish.



Pulau Pinang is one of the islands in Malaysia where turtles come to lay their eggs, and a hatchling centre is located near the jetty of the island. Apart from listening to the briefing on turtles, the participants also had the opportunity to witness baby turtles move towards the sea. It is essential for the baby turtles to begin their journey from the sand and not be released directly into the sea water. It is said that if the baby turtles manage to grow into adulthood, they would return to the island to lay their eggs. However, only about 1 in 1000 baby turtles would reach adulthood.



As future diplomats, it is important for the officers to understand that the well-being of Malaysia's marine ecosystem contributes significantly to Malaysia's standing as one of the top tourism destinations in the region and the world.

♦ Tea Chat Session with the Secretary General of the Ministry

On 6 October 2017, the officers organised a Tea Chat Session with Dato' Seri Ramlan Ibrahim, the Secretary General of the Ministry with the theme *Wisma Putra and the Way Forward*.



The semi-formal session was also attended by several heads of department of the Ministry, including Datuk Rahimi Harun, Deputy Secretary General (Management Services), Ambassador Bala Chandran Tharman, Director General of the Department of Policy Planning; Mr. Ilham Tuah Illias, Undersecretary of the Human Resource Division; and Datuk Mohamad Sadik Kethergany.

Dato' Seri Ramlan, among others, touched on the importance of having positive personal values such as humility and empathy in carrying out their responsibilities as diplomats. He also urged the young officers

to master skills such as leadership, time management, decision making and negotiation early on in their career and continue upgrading themselves.

Dato' Seri Ramlan indicated that in the 21st century globalised world, diplomats are expected to quickly adapt to new environment and challenges. They are also expected to be all-rounders, knowledgeable and able to articulate well the current trends and events happening around the world. He also shared that the management will be adopting new approaches to further improve and develop the officers' skills especially in language proficiency, personal growth and leadership through quality trainings. This commitment is crucial as it will not only ensure their relevance, but more importantly, it will contribute towards the betterment of the Ministry.

◆ Forum on *Empowering Women, Empowering Malaysia*



On 11 October 2017, the officers organised a forum titled *Empowering Women, Empowering Malaysia*. The panellists were Dato' Ismail Yahya, Former Mufti of Terengganu and Former Chief Judge of Syarie Court Terengganu; Associate Professor Dr. Madeline Berma, Academician and Former Director of Tun Fatimah Institute for Women Leadership, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM); Ms. Abir Abdul Rahim, Co-Founder of Lean in Malaysia, a women-led non-profit organisation; and Ms. Ajanis Anak Ba-I, Assistant Director of Guidance and Counselling Division, Department of Women Development, Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development.

The panel discussion revolved around three main points: self-value and self-worth; women empowerment; and societal expectations. Dato' Ismail Yahya quoted *Surah Ar-Rum* Verse 21 from the Holy Quran which highlights the importance of affection, love, tolerance and respect for each other in our daily lives. He added that empowerment is about understanding our rights and responsibilities. Islam encourages and promotes women empowerment, and women are encouraged to know more about their rights.

Associate Professor Dr. Madeline Berma of UKM stated that modern day's expectations towards women are higher and much more complex than before. She added that an empowered woman is smart and confident, and must be respected for her mind and admired for her heart and her honesty.

Ms. Abir Abdul Rahim advocated the need for society to empower women to achieve their full potential in their career and their life, without being judged. She said that women today face tougher challenges in

meeting societal expectations. Ms. Abir shared the current situation in the corporate world, where there is still an unequal playing field in the work force. Hence, more initiatives must be created to ensure equal opportunities for women at the work place.

Ms. Ajanis Anak Ba-I explained that many initiatives have been put in place by the Government to encourage women to return to the work force after maternity leave. This includes the introduction of flexible working hours and the flexibility of working from home. The Government has also introduced the *Komuniti Perwani 1Malaysia* programme, another initiative to empower women in Malaysia.

The panellists concluded that empowering women is about providing them with equal opportunities. Hence, a more conducive environment must be provided for them to make their own choices and to pursue their dreams in life.

♦ *Interactive Session with Ambassador (R) Dr. Bhaskar Balakrishnan*

The importance of science and technology in the areas of diplomacy and international relations was addressed during an interactive session with Ambassador (R) Dr. Bhaskar Balakrishnan on 6 October 2017. Ambassador Bhaskar had served as Ambassador of India to Greece, Cuba, Haiti and Dominican Republic. The discussion was based on his latest book titled *Technology and International Relations: Challenges for the 21st Century* (2017).

According to Ambassador Bhaskar, the objective of the book is to reflect on the importance for diplomats, scientists and policy makers to work together to respond to various challenges of science and technology. One of the challenges is on the issue of nuclear-related technology, which has continued to be a threat to the world community. He then stressed on energy and climate change, which require international cooperation from various disciplines. Other challenges faced by diplomats today also included the management of ocean space, management of human activities in outer space and the issue of life sciences.

The informative session was also attended by academicians, researchers and students of the IDFR-UKM Master programme.



DiD 2017 Graduation Ceremony



The graduation ceremony for the DiD programme was held on 22 January 2018. The ceremony was graced by Dato' Sri Reezal Merican Naina Merican, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Dato' Seri Ramlan Ibrahim, Secretary General of the Ministry. Around 200 guests attended the ceremony including senior officials of the Ministry, IDFR's Distinguished Fellows, former heads of mission, ambassadors and high commissioners from the diplomatic corps, lecturers and family members of the graduates.

In his opening remarks, Datuk Mohamad Sadik Kethergany, the Director General of IDFR urged the officers to not only polish their diplomatic and soft skills but to also be team players. He also emphasised the importance of maintaining an open and positive attitude, and refraining from any forms of insubordination and disrespectful behaviour.

Dato' Sri Reezal Merican, in his Address, shared his expectations for the officers to seize the opportunity for further self-development. He urged the participants to take advanced classes in the foreign languages that they have learnt during the programme. Dato' Sri Reezal Merican also emphasised the need for the officers to develop and enhance their skills in public diplomacy, and underlined the importance of having adequate emotional intelligence and empathy in performing their duties.

This was followed by the presentation of diploma to all the officers by the Deputy Foreign Minister. Five special awards – the Minister of Foreign Affairs' Award (Overall Best Student); Deputy Foreign Minister's Award (Best Leadership); Secretary General's Award (Best in Substantive Matters); Director General's Award (Best in Report Writing); and Special Award (Best Event Manager) – were also bestowed to selected officers as recognition of excellence in various areas. The recipient for the Minister of Foreign Affairs' Award was Ms. Zuliera Zariz Azman Aziz; Deputy Foreign Minister's Award was Mr. Norafizan Mustaffa; Secretary

General's Award was Mr. Syed Nizamuddin Sayed Khassim; Director General's Award was Mr. Muhammad Azhari Azmi; and Special Award was Ms. Azizah Abd Aziz.

This year, for the first time, the graduates of the programme donned their official Administrative and Diplomatic officers' ceremonial attire, for the ceremony.

2017/2018 Master of Social Science in Strategy and Diplomacy

The Master of Social Science in Strategy and Diplomacy is a collaborative programme between IDFR and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), which began in 1999.

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

The programme requires the students to attend lectures on strategic and security issues, diplomacy, interstate relations, foreign policy, international political economics, international law, defence policy and regional issues. The students are also given the opportunity to participate in seminars and round table discussions with experts and prominent figures. Among them was the *Global Talk Series* by the High Commission of Canada.

The 2017/2018 session started on 4 September and comprised thirteen Malaysians and one international student from Afghanistan.

Forum on Assessing China's Future



An East Asian International Relations (EAIR) Forum jointly organised by IDFR, UKM's EAIR Caucus and UM's Institute of China Studies was held at IDFR on 21 April 2017. The title of the forum was *Assessing China's Future* and the discussion was led by Professor David Shambaugh, Distinguished Visiting Professor at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University in Singapore.

The discussion was based on his latest book, *China's Future* (2016). The forum was attended by 80 participants, comprising representatives from various embassies and NGOs, researchers, lecturers and university students.

Professor Shambaugh outlined China's major challenges with respect to its economy and growth model, politics, society and external relations. The possibility that the country's political pathways will take after the 19th Chinese Communist Party Congress was also discussed. Understanding China is very complex as it is based on uncertainty and rigidity. The leadership under President Xi Jinping practises a top-down management approach without any element of tolerance in the system. Concurrently, the centrally planned economy depicts the centralized decision-making taken by the government. This leads China to experience middle-income trap at present.

Professor Shambaugh provided a clear message with regards to China's future. In order for the country to become a developed nation, it needs to reform its political system. Through political liberalization, further economic growth and social stability can be enhanced.

Workshops for Research Officers

Two workshops were organised for the Research Officers in 2017. The first, *Workshop on Research Methodology*, was held on 6 April 2017. The workshop was held to enhance the officers' knowledge and skills in the area of research methodology, in line with IDFR's Strategic Plan in producing research and analytical papers.

Seventeen officers were privileged to interact with and learn from Associate Professor Dr. Kuik Cheng Chwee, Course Coordinator for the IDFR-UKM Master of Social Science programme on the various practical and hands-on approaches to researching and writing research papers.

Dr. Kuik exposed the officers to major methods of inquiry in qualitative research method, which includes experimentation and observation. He also shared his knowledge on, among others, defining case study in a research paper; questions to ask; literature review; variables in research; and ways to develop analytical framework and theoretical framework.



The second workshop, *Effective Writing for Research Officers and Trainers – Quantitative Analysis*, was conducted on 16 May 2017, to impart knowledge and writing skills of quantitative research. The participants were privileged to learn from Dr. Guido Benny, Senior Lecturer at the School of History, Politics and Strategy, UKM.

Dr. Benny explained, among others, on how to define quantitative design and analysis, quantitative methods in analysing data, types of research questions, literature review, variables in research and ways to develop analytical and theoretical framework in a research paper. He also shared his experience in conducting research on ASEAN and issues surrounding the organisation.

Workshop on Designing, Engaging and Gamified Learning Experience

A workshop on Designing, Engaging and Gamified Learning Experience was organised for IDFR's officers from 26 to 27 April 2017. The workshop was organised to enhance the officers' training methodology skills using creative and effective techniques, and was conducted by Mr. Zaid Ali Al Sagoff, a Learning Innovation Specialist.

Throughout the workshop, the participants were given the opportunity to explore how to engage audience by gamifying learning experiences using various methods and tools. The participants also discovered how to design interesting graphics in PowerPoint and explored various interactive online tools to engage and gamify learning to make future classes more interactive, engaging and lively.

On the second day, the participants were divided into groups to design engaging and gamified learning experiences using the tools learnt from the previous day.



In conclusion, the workshop achieved its objective of introducing IDFR's officers to interactive learning tools. Hence, giving them a taste of how they can use technology to engage, gamify and transform the way they facilitate learning.

Royalty and Palace Protocol Course 2017

In preparation for the Royal Address by His Royal Highness Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah Ibni Almarhum Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah Al-Maghfur-Lah on 12 July 2017, a half-day course on Royalty and Palace Protocol was organised for IDFR's officers on 15 June 2017. The objective of the course was to train the participants on customs, manners and the proper use of language when attending to royal guests. The course was led by Mr. Sophian Ab. Rahman, an officer from the National Palace.

The background is an abstract composition of thick, textured brushstrokes. A large, vibrant orange stroke dominates the top left corner. Below it, a yellow stroke transitions into a green one on the left side. The bottom right features a large, warm orange stroke with visible brush texture. The overall palette is warm and organic, with a visible canvas texture.

Special Projects Division

The Special Projects Division is tasked to undertake the strategic planning of IDFR to ensure it remains on the transformation track and achieve the objectives set out for the period of 2016–2020. Together with the Corporate Affairs Section, it monitors the implementation and coordination of the transformation and strategic plan of IDFR.

Within its portfolio, the Division also conducts studies and research in current issues of strategic importance in international relations which strengthens IDFR as a centre of excellence in the field.

Among them, it has completed a review on *The Situation of the Rohingyas and the Challenges for Malaysia*, as well as the *Compilation of Malaysia's Participation in the UNSC for the period of 2015-2016*. The compilation focuses on statements and intervention notes by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations, mainly on issues such as illegal settlements and structures by Jewish settlers on Palestine territories, Middle East problem, North Korea and Iran nuclear ambitions, counter-terrorism, child protection, human rights and women empowerment.

The Division has also been looking into the issue of human trafficking, the effectiveness of the current policies, regional issue surrounding the topic, as well as implications for Malaysia. On the same vein, the Division has also been observing the impact on the rise of China and intervening roles of Russia in the Southeast Asia region at the backdrop of US' reluctance to continue active engagements in this region and in Asia as a whole. It is also imperative to assess and analyse ASEAN's geopolitical importance by focusing on the centrality of ASEAN and its decision-making process. The ongoing analytical papers on these current issues are prepared and compiled for review by the Ministry's top management. Among the topics are: *One Belt One Road (OBOR) Initiative: Its Impact on Labour Mobility in Malaysia and its Implication on the Trade Relations in Malaysia*; *United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334*; *a Testimony of Malaysia's Effective Political Diplomacy*; *Najib Razak and Jokowi's Leadership Governance on the Rohingya Crisis: a Comparative Study and Its Regional Implications*; and *Islamophobia and Security Implications to the Muslim World*.

The Division also coordinates the International Relations module for INTAN's Diploma in Public Management under the IDFR-INTAN collaboration. In this particular module, IDFR is responsible to provide learning in *Practices in Diplomacy, Cultural Diplomacy, Public Diplomacy and Media Relations, Bilateralism and Nation State Relations, and Multilateralism and Regionalism*.

In propelling IDFR to be the pasture for knowledge in Diplomacy and International Relations and to propel IDFR as a centre of excellence, collaborations with local universities are being intensified. A Memorandum of Agreement with UKM and a Memorandum of Understanding with UITM have been signed while ongoing negotiations with new strategic partners such as UUM, UNIMAS, UMS and UM are being carried out intensively. The strategic collaborations not only focus on providing avenues for the Ministry's officers to seek academic advancement, it is also an impetus for IDFR to further expand its knowledge resources to enrich its capability to assess and analyse geopolitical issues and provide policy input to the Ministry.



The background of the image is an abstract composition of thick, textured brushstrokes. The colors are primarily warm, including various shades of orange, from light peach to deep terracotta, and bright yellow. There are also some cooler tones, such as a muted green and a pale blue-grey, which are less prominent. The strokes are layered and overlapping, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall effect is reminiscent of a modern, expressive painting.

Management Services Division

The Management Services Division provides support and administrative services to the Institute, and is made up of three sections: Administration, Finance and Human Resource; Library and ICT; and Corporate Affairs. The Division is headed by a Director and supported by 56 staff.

Administration, Finance and Human Resource Section

The Administration, Finance and Human Resource Section comprises three units that manage the day-to-day activities related to the Institute's general administration and logistics, assets, finance and human resources. It also coordinates various committee meetings, including tender meetings and the quarterly *Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Pengurusan Kewangan dan Akaun*.

To help strengthen the Institute's research work, the Section assisted in the recruitment of several Research Officers, including an Associate Professor on secondment from Universiti Sains Malaysia, bringing the total number of Research Officers to 17.



Another feather in IDFR's cap was when it was acknowledged as the best *Pusat Tanggungjawab (PTJ)* by the Accountant General's Department and was presented with *The Best PTJ 2017* award. Puan Asmat Zainal Abidin, the Institute's Accountant, received the award on behalf of the Director General at the 2017 Account Closing Session on 28 November 2017 in Putrajaya.

In terms of its operating budget, IDFR was allocated a budget of RM9,550,000.00 for 2017. Its total operating expenditure for the year was RM9,313,416.23.

Library and ICT Section

The library has an extensive collection of materials, including books, journals and magazines, in the field of the Institute's core business of international relations, diplomacy and strategic studies. Information regarding these materials can be retrieved through the library's WEBOPAC at <http://webopac.kln.gov.my>, while detailed information about the library can be accessed via the library portal at <https://library.idfr.gov.my/>

Among the initiatives taken by the Library to enhance reading habits among the staff and the course participants were to organise the *Let's Share@IDFR* Programme, a speaking platform to share information and knowledge from the books that they have read; and the *Everyone Can Borrow* Programme, a door-

to-door book loan service. The Library also disseminates information on selected book titles and journal and magazine subscription via e-mail on a regular basis.

The ICT Unit, which provides support services on ICT hardware and software, had the opportunity to share with the Malaysian Administrative Modernisation and Management Planning Unit (MAMPU) on the repository system implemented at IDFR, which is a one-stop system that is being used by the staff to share files. It became a reference model for MAMPU in embarking on an overall Public Service Repository System.



The Unit also successfully developed IDFR's new website. Its new look and feel is expected to attract more visitors and will help to promote IDFR's programmes and activities.

Corporate Affairs Section

The Corporate Affairs Section coordinates programmes and exercises under the Transformation Plan and the Strategic Plan for IDFR, facilitates requests for collaborations/cooperation including the preparation of Memorandums of Understanding and Letters of Cooperation. The Section also coordinates courtesy calls and visits to the Institute, extends media invites and press releases to the media, and manages the Institute's periodical publications.



In 2017, among the events that were coordinated by the Section, and assisted by the other Sections and Centres, were the Royal Address by His Royal Highness Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah Ibni Almarhum Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah Al-Maghfur-Lah and the Institute's Cultural Appreciation Day on 22 August 2017.

Courtesy calls on Datuk Mohamad Sadik Kethergany, the Director General were made by, among others, His Excellency Guido Felipe Devescovi, Ambassador of the Republic of Peru to Malaysia on 18 January 2017; Dr.



Maen Moh'd Sodki Salem Masadeh, Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on 1 March 2017; His Excellency Shanker Das Bairagi, Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal on 10 July 2017; His Excellency Rod Smith, Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia on 18 August 2017; His Excellency A.J.M Muzammil, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Malaysia on 20 September 2017; and His Excellency Atiqullah Atifmal, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on 1 November 2017.

The Section also coordinated the visit of delegations from Lao People's Democratic Republic, led by H.E. Saleumxay Kommasith, its Minister of Foreign Affairs, and from the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, headed by Ambassador Dinberu Alemu, Director of In-Service Training of its Foreign Service Training Institute, as well as the visit of Mr. No'man Ahmad, Registrar of Universiti Malaysia Sabah on 12 September 2017.

Other activities include coordinating the Signing Ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding on friendship and cooperation, promotion of mutual understanding, academic, cultural and scientific thought, and personnel exchange with Universiti Teknologi MARA on 27 November 2017. Signing on behalf of IDFR was Datuk Mohamad Sadik Kethergany, and for UiTM was Emeritus Professor Dato' Dr. Hassan Said, the University's Vice Chancellor, witnessed by Datuk Rahimi Harun, Deputy Secretary General (Management Services Department), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Professor Dr. Posiah Mohd. Isa, Dean of the Faculty of Administrative Science and Policy Studies, UiTM. The Section also assisted in the signing of two more Memorandums of Understanding on cooperation in the field of training for diplomats; between IDFR and similar Institute in Qatar and in Sri Lanka, respectively.



The background is an abstract composition of thick, textured brushstrokes. A large, vibrant orange stroke dominates the top left corner. Below it, a yellow stroke transitions into a green one on the left side. A broad, horizontal stroke of reddish-orange spans the middle right. The bottom left features a light, textured stroke in shades of white and pale blue. The overall effect is one of dynamic, painterly energy.

In and Around IDFR

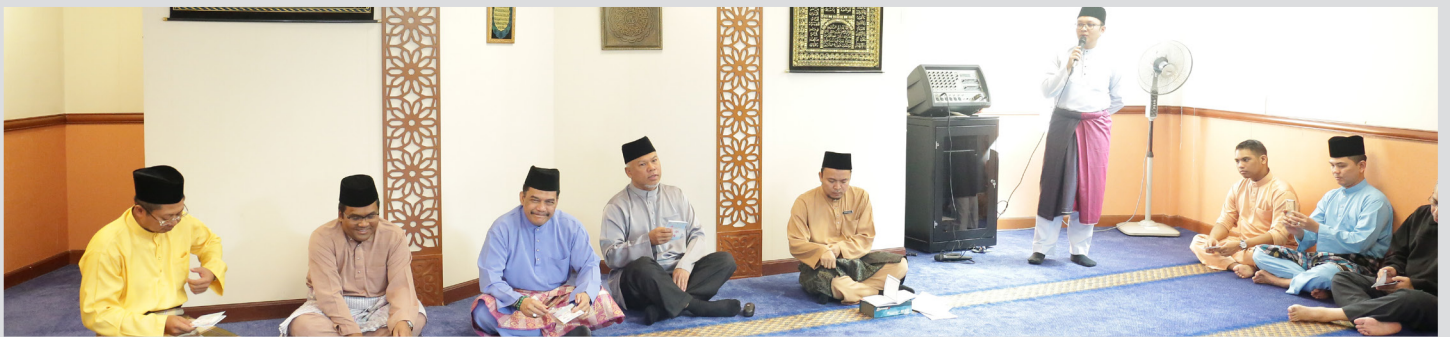














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Appendix

2017 PROGRAMMES AND NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

Centre for Political Studies and Economic Diplomacy

No.	Courses	Number of Participants	Malaysian Participants	International Participants
1.	<i>Diplomatic Training Course for Saudi Young Diplomats 2017</i>	9	-	9
2.	<i>MTCP: Diplomatic Training Course for International Participants 2017</i>	17	2	15
3.	<i>MTCP: Strategic Analysis for International Participants 2017</i>	13	2	11
4.	<i>MTCP: Economic Diplomacy for International Participants Course 2017</i>	17	2	15
5.	<i>Workshop for Liaison Officers for the Ninth Session of the World Urban Forum</i>	165	165	-

No.	Discourses	Number of Participants	Malaysian Participants	International Participants
1.	<i>Ambassador Lecture Series 1/2017 - Turkey and the New International (Dis) Order</i>	77	70	7
2.	<i>Ambassador Lecture Series 2/2017 - Bosnia and Herzegovina and European and Euro-Atlantic Integration</i>	54	49	5
3.	<i>IDFR Lecture Series 1/2017 - A Trump 'Reset' With Russia? Implications For East Asia</i>	78	73	5
4.	<i>Reflections on Malaysia's Membership of the UN Security Council (2015-2016)</i>	93	93	-
5.	<i>Malaysia-Australia Young Diplomats' Round Table 2017</i>	24	12	12
6.	<i>Economic Diplomacy Series: Negotiation Issues on Food Labels (Malaysia) - Case on Halal</i>	40	36	4
7.	<i>IDFR Lecture Series 2/2017 - ASEAN-Australia Relationship and the 2018 Special Summit</i>	75	68	7

Centre for Leadership, Negotiation and Public Diplomacy

No.	Courses	Number of Participants	Malaysian Participants	International Participants
1.	<i>SPKM: Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses Series 1/2017</i>	56	56	-
2.	<i>Young Diplomats Programme for Johor Student Leaders' Council</i>	21	21	-
3.	<i>Workshop on Public Diplomacy and Media Skills</i>	27	27	-
4.	<i>SPKM: Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses Series 2/2017</i>			
5.	<i>SPKM: Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses Series 3/2017</i>	52	52	-
6.	<i>Diplomatic Training Course for Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) 2017</i>	27	27	-
7.	<i>SPKM: Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses Series 4/2017</i>	43	43	-
8.	<i>Leadership Course for Mid-Level Diplomats and Attachés</i>	25	25	-
9.	<i>SPKM: Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Home-Based Staff and Spouses Series 5/2017</i>	56	56	-
10.	<i>International Negotiations Workshop 2017</i>	23	23	-

Centre for Languages and Cultural Diplomacy

No.	Courses	Number of Participants	Malaysian Participants	International Participants
1.	<i>Say it Right: A Course on Pronunciation</i>	18	18	-
2.	<i>Presentation Skills at the Workplace</i>	13	13	-
3.	<i>Building Blocks of Good English</i>	11	11	-
4.	<i>Arabic Level I</i>	8	8	-
5.	<i>Spanish Level I</i>	12	12	-
6.	<i>Spanish Level II</i>	7	7	-
7.	<i>Spanish Level IV</i>	7	7	-
8.	<i>Fundamental Conversational Malay Level I (January - March)</i>	6	-	6
9.	<i>Fundamental Conversational Malay Level II</i>	6	-	6
10.	<i>Fundamental Conversational Malay Level I (November -)</i>	1	-	1
No.	Discourses	Number of Participants	Malaysian Participants	International Participants
1.	<i>Cultural Diplomacy Lecture Series 1/2017</i>	120	115	5
2.	<i>Workshop on Intercultural Communication and Diplomacy</i>	15	15	-
3.	<i>Cultural Diplomacy Lecture Series 2/2017</i>	290	273	17

Centre for Competency Enhancement

No.	Courses	Number of Participants	Malaysian Participants	International Participants
1.	<i>Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD) 2017</i>	18	18	-
2	<i>2017/2018 Master of Social Science in Strategy and Diplomacy</i>	14	13	1
3.	<i>Workshop on Research Methodology</i>	17	17	-
4.	<i>Workshop on Designing, Engaging and Gamified Learning Experience</i>	22	22	-
5.	<i>Workshop on Effective Writing for Research Officers and Trainers – Quantitative Analysis</i>	17	17	-
6.	<i>Royalty and Palace Protocol Course 2017</i>	35	35	-
No.	Discourses	Number of Participants	Malaysian Participants	International Participants
1.	<i>Tea Chat Session with the Secretary General of the Ministry</i>	26	26	-
2.	<i>Forum on Empowering Women, Empowering Malaysia</i>	120	120	-
4.	<i>Interactive Session with Ambassador (R) Dr. Bhaskar Balakrishnan</i>	40	40	-
4.	<i>Forum on Assessing China's Future</i>	50	45	5

Other Programmes

No.	Programmes	Number of Participants	Malaysian Participants	International Participants
1.	Royal Address by HRH Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah	340	333	7
2.	Cultural Appreciation Day	200	158	42

Enquiries

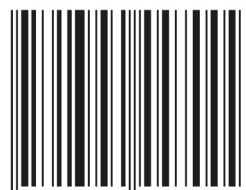
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