



FOREWARD BY AMBASSADOR OF MALAYSIA IN MEXICO

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Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh,

Selamat Datang and Bienvenido to the 2nd edition of Hola Malasia! E-Newsletter 2020 (edition February - July 2020).

The outbreak of novel coronavirus COVID-19 since early February 2020 across the globe has affected many countries and changed the way we live and work. Many activities and gatherings which involved physical contacts have to be avoided as social distancing requirements and restrictions on movement became the "new normal". In the world of diplomacy, the old routine as we know it has also been put on pause. As such, new alternatives are required for us to conduct our functions.

As the Embassy assumes as Chair of ASEAN Committees in Mexico City (ACMC) for the first half of 2020, it has been a challenging period for us in organizing activities during this time. Nonetheless, we have successfully organized several activities under the ASEAN banner with the objective of enhancing ASEAN's visibility in Mexico, albeit with restrictions and limitations.

As part of our consular services, the Embassy has taken an active role in assisting many returning Malaysians who were stranded in Mexico and neighboring countries for the past few

months due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. I am pleased to note that our staff had gone beyond the call of duty in undertaking these responsibilities in ensuring the well-being of stranded Malaysians.

As for the bilateral relations between Malaysia and Mexico, Mexico remains a major partner to Malaysia even during this challenging time. I am also delighted to note that the Embassy of Malaysia in Mexico, in collaboration with the Mexican Chambers of Deputies of the LXIV Legislatures of the Mexican Congress had successfully organized the inauguration of the Friendship Group between Malaysia and Mexico on 11 February 2020. I look forward to a fruitful collaboration in future projects that could be mutually beneficial to both countries.

Muzafar Shah Mustafa
14 July 2020



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ASEAN COMMITTEE IN MEXICO CITY (ACMC) CHAIRMANSHIP HAND-OVER CEREMONY: MALAYSIA TO THE PHILIPPINES

As the current ASEAN Committee in Mexico City (ACMC) Chair from January to July 2020, the Embassy of Malaysia in Mexico City, Mexico organized a hand-over ceremony of ASEAN Chairmanship in Mexico from Malaysia to the Philippines on 9 January 2020. Head of Missions from Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam and charge d'affaires of Thailand and the ACMC Working Group attended the ceremony which was held at the Embassy of Malaysia.



TYT Ambassador Muzafar Shah Mustafa handing over the report of ASEAN activities for the period of January – July 2020 to H.E. Ambassador Demetrio R. Tuason from The Philippines as a gesture for the official handover from the previous Chair to the new Chair of ASEAN for the second half of 2020

The ceremony started with the welcoming remarks by TYT Ambassador Muzafar Shah Mustafa as the current Chair of the ACMC and the report of ASEAN activities in the first half of 2020 (January – June). It was proceeded by the handover of the ASEAN fund from the Embassy of the Philippines in Mexico City, Mexico (as the treasurer for the first half of 2020) to the Embassy of Vietnam in Mexico City, Mexico as the new ASEAN treasurer for the period of July – December 2020.

bilateral ties between ASEAN and Mexico.



From left: Ambassador of Indonesia, Ambassador of Malaysia, Ambassador of the Philippines, charge d'affaires of Thailand and Ambassador of Vietnam

During his remarks, TYT Ambassador gave his appreciation remarks towards the ASEAN colleagues and the ACMC Working Group for delivering some activities amidst the novel coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic.



Meeting of the ACMC on 9 July 2020

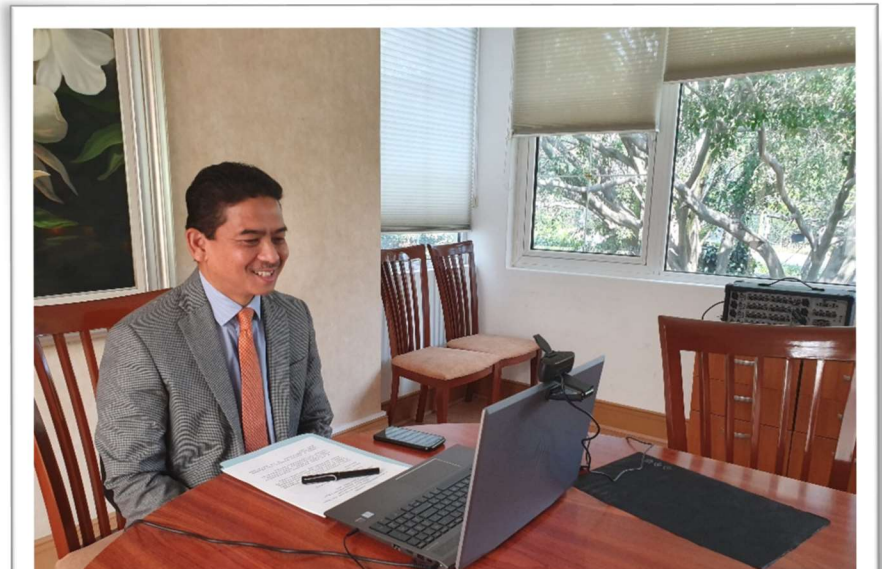
During the ceremony, the Embassy of the Philippines, as the new Chair of ACMC has proposed several activities in strengthening the cooperation between ASEAN embassies in Mexico, as well as activities that would enhance the

VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE ASEAN HEADS OF MISSION IN MEXICO WITH SRE ON COVID-19 SITUATION IN MEXICO AND INITIATIVES BY ASEAN DURING THE PANDEMIC OUTBREAK

On 13 May 2020, the Embassy of Malaysia in Mexico initiated an online video conference on COVID-19 Situation and Development in Mexico between the ASEAN Heads of Mission in Mexico and the Secretariat of External Relations of Mexico (SRE), led by Ambassador Claudia Franco Hijuelos, the Director-General for Asia Pacific, SRE.

As the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases keep on increasing, not only in Mexico and ASEAN countries, but in the majority of the countries in the world as well, it was paramount for the ASEAN Ambassadors to discuss the issue with the representative of the Mexican Government. In view of this, the meeting served as a platform to exchange views on the development of COVID-19 in Mexico and ASEAN countries.

As the ACMC Chair, TYT Ambassador Muzafar Shah Mustafa gave an overall remark on the initiatives by ASEAN Leaders in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic including the culmination of the Declaration of the Special ASEAN Summit on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) on 14 April 2020. ASEAN countries with several countries such as China, Japan and South Korea have also come out with several collaborative efforts in mitigating the impact of COVID-19 to the economy and political stability in the ASEAN region. Each of the ASEAN Ambassadors also gave the report on the status of



TYT Ambassador Muzafar Shah Mustafa on his welcoming remarks during the virtual meeting

COVID-19 situation and initiatives by each individual country (Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines and Vietnam) during the pandemic outbreak.

On her part, Ambassador Claudia Franco Hijuelos informed that the Government of Mexico has laid out several measures in mitigating the impact COVID-19 towards the Mexican economy including a temporary closure for non-essential activities and economic packages to sustain the economy during the coronavirus pandemic. The Government of Mexico also committed to work with the diplomatic corps in Mexico, especially with the ASEAN embassies in sharing the latest information and initiatives of the Government with regard to the coronavirus pandemic.

The meeting also discussed on several issues pertaining to ASEAN nationals in Mexico especially on repatriation issues and several racism incidents involving ASEAN nationals in Mexico. In view of this, the SRE stressed on their

commitment to collaborate in resolving and assisting the ASEAN embassies in Mexico with regard to problems arisen due to COVID-19 pandemic.

The Meeting also touched on the on the discussion of the regional cooperation especially on the fight against the pandemic and the measures and action to be taken after the crisis has been averted i.e. post-COVID-19 era.



LUNCHEON MEETING BETWEEN ASEAN AND AMB. JULIAN VENTURA

On 19 February 2020, ASEAN Heads of Mission in Mexico has held a luncheon meeting with H.E. Ambassador Julian Ventura, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, Secretariat of External Relations of Mexico (SRE). The focus of the luncheon meeting was to discuss on bilateral issues between ASEAN and Mexico. The Meeting also covered issues pertaining to individual ASEAN countries including trade and business opportunities in Mexico. As the ACMC Chair, HE Ambassador Muzafar Shah Mustafa delivered a remark where he stressed on the importance of strengthening the existing framework for the mutual benefits of ASEAN and Mexico.



ASEAN EMBASSIES IN MEXICO DONATION PROGRAM

On 26 June 2020, the ASEAN embassies of ASEAN, represented by the Embassy of Malaysia in Mexico has successfully donated MXN25,000.00 pesos to the to the "Hogar Dulce Hogar" Foundation, a non-profit organization which provide a safe house for children, including home, food, clothing, education, medical and psychological care plus recreation in various ways. The money was raised during the ASEAN Bazaar on 7 December 2019 through the selling of raffle tickets to the attendants of the ASEAN Bazaar (in total, the money raised amounted to MXN49,050.00 pesos). The balance of the money goes to the ASEAN Committee in Mexico City (ACMC) fund.



INAUGURATION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP GROUP BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND MEXICO

On 11 February 2020, the Embassy of Malaysia and the Parliamentary Friendship Group of the Chamber of Deputies of Mexico inaugurated the Parliamentary Friendship Group between Malaysia and Mexico. The Ceremony was led by TYT Ambassador Muzafar Shah Mustafa from the Malaysian side and Deputy Maiella Gomez Maldonado, President of Parliamentary Friendship Groups from the Mexican Chamber of Deputies. The establishment of the Parliamentary Friendship Group Malaysia-Mexico aims at promoting inter-parliamentary dialogue and information exchange for greater cooperation and understanding between Malaysia and Mexico. Other than that, it would also explore future cooperative initiatives and programs between the two parties.

The inauguration started with the opening remarks by the President Friendship Group Malaysia-Mexico, Deputy Maiella Gomez Maldonado. Amongst others, the Deputy reiterated the importance of the bilateral relations between Malaysia and Mexico, politically and economically. The formation of the Friendship Group Malaysia-Mexico could spur future collaboration and cooperation especially in the areas of information sharing, knowledge in good governance and in realizing the United Nations' 2030 Sustainable Development Goals for the mutual benefits of both countries. The Deputy also reiterated the need to have an exchange of working visit from the



Parliamentary Friendship Groups in both countries.

In his remarks, TYT Ambassador Muzafar Shah Mustafa stated the importance of Mexico to Malaysia, and vice versa. TYT Ambassador noted on the potential for the political and economic relations to grow substantially through commitment and cooperation between our two countries – be it in public sector or private sector – especially in economics, trade and investment, education and human capital development as well as in other new areas of common interest. TYT Ambassador also stressed on the importance of the inauguration of the Friendship Group Malaysia-Mexico which could enhance further the cooperation between the two countries. In this sense, both countries should take this opportunity to forge and develop close and enduring cooperation as a means to strengthen existing ties to

bring about greater awareness of Malaysia in Mexico, and vice versa.

The members of the Friendship Group as well as the other members of the Chamber of Deputies also intervened during the session. Amongst the notable remarks were on the importance of Malaysia as the top ten trade partner to Mexico and the invitation to organize the trade promotional visits to several States under the constituents of the members of the Chamber of Deputies. Several members also called for dialogue cooperation between the two countries especially on the issue of climate change, issue of human trafficking, human rights as well as to have more treaties/ Memorandum of Understanding between the Malaysia and Mexico. There was also a mentioned on the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

The session was then proceeded with the official declaration of the establishment of the Parliamentary Friendship Group between Malaysia and Mexico and the signing of the partnership. TYT Ambassador was also being honored to sign the Chamber of Deputies Distinguished Guest Visitor's Signing Book. The Ceremony ended with a group photo between TYT Ambassador and members of the Parliamentary Friendship Group Malaysia-Mexico.

TYT Ambassador also had the opportunity to tour the Mexican Chamber of Deputies where he was taken to the Session Hall and was greeted by the presiding speaker in the presence of most of the 500-member of Parliament of Mexico.



STRENGTHENING BILATERAL COOPERATION: HIGHLIGHTS

The Parliamentary Friendship Group of Mexico made a courtesy visit to the Embassy of Malaysia on 5 February 2020 to discuss the relations between Malaysia and Mexico and how to further strengthen this cooperation. The Friendship Group was led by the President, Deputy Gómez Maldonado Maiella Martha Gabriela and other Deputies from the Chamber of Deputies i.e. Deputy Contreras González Lourdes Celenia, Deputy Méndez De La Luz Dazón Dulce Maria, Deputy Puente De La Mora Ximena and Deputy Rodríguez Carrillo Mario Alberto. There was a brief presentation on Malaysia before a luncheon with traditional Malaysian cuisines.



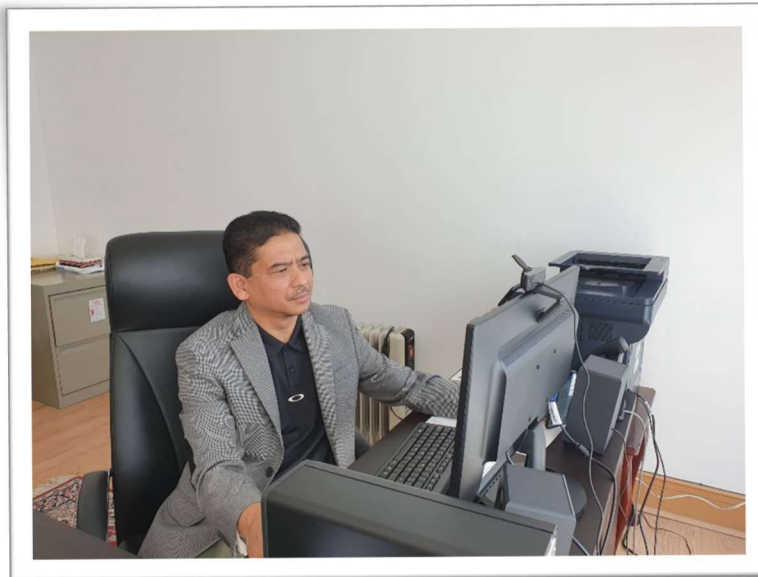
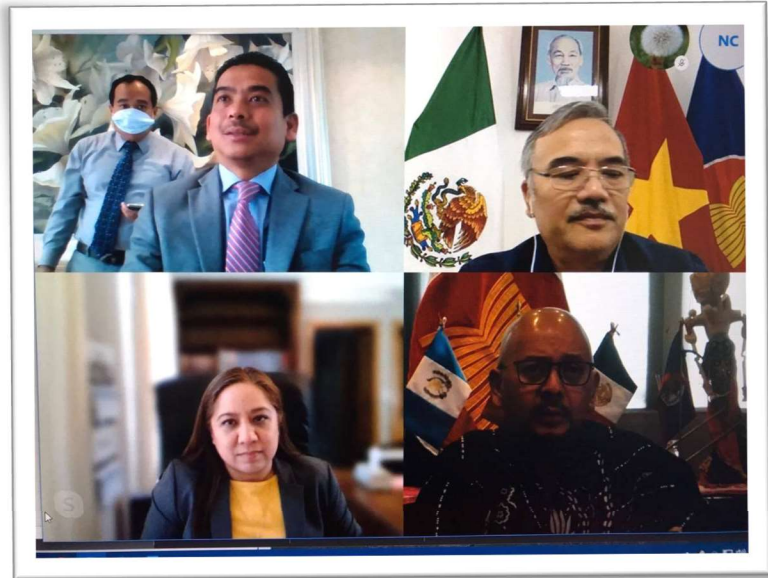
Courtesy visit on TYT Ambassador Muzafar Shah Mustafa by Deputy Luis Moreno Hernández from Baja California (President of the Border and Migration Affairs commission of the XXIII state legislature of Baja California) on 7 February 2020 to discuss possible visit and cooperation from the State of Baja California, Mexico and Malaysia. One of the topics of discussion was on the possibility of cooperation between the State of Johor, Malaysia and the State of Baja California, Mexico

Meeting between TYT Ambassador Muzafar Shah Mustafa and Her Excellency Ambassador Claudia Franco Hijuelos, Director-General for Asia Pacific, Secretariat of External Relations (SRE) of Mexico on 12 March 2020. The topic of the discussion is on the latest political situation in Malaysia. Her Excellency Ambassador Claudia Franco Hijuelos also has the opportunity to try delicious Malaysian cuisines: satay (barbequed chicken), murtabak (flat bread with beef and egg) and curry puff



STRENGTHENING BILATERAL COOPERATION: HIGHLIGHTS

Virtual Meeting as the new norm amidst the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic. The ASEAN Heads of Mission in Mexico City conducted an online meeting to discuss the situation of COVID-19 in Mexico and other issues pertaining to ASEAN on 24 April 2020.



On 16 June 2020, TYT Ambassador Muzafar Shah Mustafa participated in a video conference on the presentation of the Mexican Candidature to World Trade Organization (WTO), Dr. Jesús Seade Kuri who has been nominated for the post of Director-General of WTO, and to succeed the current Director-General, Mr. Roberto Azevêdo, who has announced that he will step down on 31 August 2020.

TYT Ambassador Muzafar Shah Mustafa joined the online meeting "DIPLOMATIC CAFE" in conjunction of the 45 years of diplomatic relations between Qatar and Mexico on June 25, 2020.



STRENGTHENING BILATERAL COOPERATION: HIGHLIGHTS

On 3 July 2020, TYT Ambassador Muzafar Shah Mustafa paid a visit to the Immigration Office in Benito Juarez International Airport, Mexico City to discuss on the immigration issues pertaining to Malaysians visiting Mexico. During the visit, TYT Ambassador met with Dr. Miguel Angel Ramirez Hernandez from the National Institute of Migration at the airport.



TYT Ambassador Muzafar Shah Mustafa met with State Official from Tijuana, Madam Monica Gabriela Morales Juarez to discuss on the possible partnership between the City of Tijuana and the City of Johor Bahru in Malaysia. The City of Johor Bahru in Malaysia is located at the border between Malaysia and Singapore, similar to Tijuana and San Diego, US.

TYT Ambassador Muzafar Shah Mustafa was being interviewed by Dr. Adolfo Alberto Laborde Carranco, Profesor from Faculty of Economy and Business, Universidad Anáhuac, Mexico City, Mexico on 26 February 2020. The interview focused on the current relations between Malaysia and Mexico and political situations in Malaysia



MEDIA ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM BY THE EMBASSY OF MALAYSIA IN MEXICO

On 21 February 2020, TYT Ambassador Muzafar Shah Mustafa attended a television interview for a television programme from *Canal Once* (Channel Eleven), Mexico City by a famous TV and Radio presenter in Mexico City, Mr. Federico Le Mont. The programme was recorded and scheduled to be aired by the *Canal Once* on 27 February 2020. Earlier, TYT Ambassador was also being interviewed for a live radio programme at the ABC Radio 760 AM, Mexico City conducted by the same host. The interview was aired live from 12.30 pm – 12.45 pm on that same date.



TYT Ambassador Muzafar Shah Mustafa during a television interview at the ONCE TV Channel, Mexico

During both interviews, TYT Ambassador answered several questions related to the relations between Malaysia and Mexico as well as current political and economic scenario in Malaysia. TYT Ambassador further shared the information on Visit Malaysia Year 2020 and details of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit, scheduled to be held in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia in November 2020.

TYT Ambassador also mentioned on the positive bilateral trades between Malaysia and Mexico. TYT Ambassador further noted on the many opportunities that both countries could explore in enhancing the partnership between Malaysia and Mexico.



TYT Ambassador Muzafar Shah Mustafa during a live radio interview (ABC Radio 760 AM)

OUTREACH PROGRAM BY THE EMBASSY OF MALAYSIA IN MEXICO

On 7 March 2020, the Embassy of Malaysia collaborated with Perwakilan Mexico City (Malaysian Ladies' Association in Mexico City) to participate in the 43rd International Fair of the Greengates International School in Mexico City. Many of the Malaysian diasporas in Mexico City including our HBS staff have been sending their children to this school.

During the event, our Malaysian students performed several traditional Malaysian dances including "Tarian Songket" and "Boria Pulau Pinang".

Our Perwakilan ladies also participated in selling Malaysian foods such as "nasi minyak", "ayam masak merah", "acar jelatah", "bihun goreng", "sate", "pisang goreng", "ais krim malaysia" as well as "air sirap bandung" drink.



Some of the pics of the "Gerai Malaysia" and Malaysia's participation during the 43rd International Fair of the Greengates International School, Mexico City

ACTIVITIES FOR MALAYSIANS IN MEXICO AND CONSULAR ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO STRANDED MALAYSIANS AMIDST THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN MEXICO

Due to novel coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, the Embassy of Malaysia in Mexico City, Mexico has been taking precautions and safety measures such as practicing physical distancing and workplace hazard controls. The Embassy has implemented alternate "Work from Home (WFH)" procedure for the locally recruited staff (LRS) as well as shortening operating hours to curb the spread of the pandemic. In view of this, many of the activities which involved Malaysians (as well as activities with non-Malaysians) have been cancelled. Nevertheless, during the celebration of Hari Raya on 24 May 2020, the Embassy has initiated a "take-away" version of the traditional Hari Raya cuisines to the Malaysian diasporas in Mexico. Apart from that, the Embassy has been proactive in assisting many stranded Malaysians in Mexico (as well as nearby countries) for the purpose of repatriation to Malaysia.



ASSISTING STRANDED MALAYSIANS IN MEXICO

On 8 June 2020, the Embassy of Malaysia in Mexico and the Embassy of Malaysia in Havana, Cuba collaborated in assisting our Malaysians who were stranded in Jamaica. They are an Islamic missionary group who were stranded in Jamaica since March 2020. The Embassy of Malaysia in Mexico has also provided them with some foods and consular assistance before they departure from Mexico.



On 10 April 200, the Embassy of Malaysia assisted three Malaysians who were stranded in Peru since March 2020. The Embassy also donated some facemasks to them.

The Embassy of Malaysia assisted Mr. Syed Raslan Wafa, our Malaysian national who has been stranded in Mexico since 24 March 2020 when his flight was rescheduled to 2 July 2020. The Embassy has assisted him in getting a new flight date (12 May 2020) to fly back to Malaysia and helped him during his difficult time in Mexico.



THANK YOU. MUCHAS GRACIAS.



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Waktu Pejabat : Isnin - Jumaat
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