



# *SABAIDEE*

E-Newsletter No 1/2020

Embassy of Malaysia, Vientiane



## **MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MALAYSIA VISITS LAOS**

H.E. Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia led the Malaysian delegation to the Special ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting on the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 20 February 2020. He was accompanied by Senior Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Health of Malaysia.

During the Special Meeting, Foreign Ministers from ASEAN Member Countries and China exchanged views in dealing with the COVID-19 outbreak. The meeting demonstrated ASEAN and China's solidarity and determination to jointly battle the outbreak.

**“STAY STRONG WUHAN, STAY STRONG CHINA, STAY STRONG ASEAN.”**



## MESSAGE FROM THE AMBASSADOR



*Assalamualaikum WBT, Sabaidee*

*The Embassy of Malaysia in Vientiane, Lao PDR is pleased to issue the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of E-Newsletter for the year 2020.*

*The 1<sup>st</sup> edition reflects Malawakil Vientiane's activities from January to March 2020. During the period, Malawakil Vientiane had continuously engage with its counterparts from the host Country as well as Malaysians residing and working in the Lao PDR.*

*On 19-20 February 2020, Malawakil Vientiane had the honour to receive YB Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah, who was then Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia on a Working Visit to the Lao PDR in conjunction with the Special ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting on the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). The meeting showed ASEAN and China's solidarity to battle the Covid-19 outbreak in a collective manner.*

*Following the MCO announced in Malaysia on 18 March 2020, the Embassy has been engaging with Malaysians who are stranded as well as those working and living here. Regular updates on the latest local regulations and restrictions were disseminated to Malaysians here.*

*Malawakil Vientiane will continue to monitor the situation on the ground and will reach out to all Malaysians residing and working in the Lao PDR to register their details with the Embassy for ease of future communications.*

*Kob Chai Lai Lai (Thank you very much)*

*Mohd Aini Atan*

# SEMINAR AND B2B IN PROMOTING MALAYSIA GOLDEN MONTH HOLIDAY CAMPAIGN IN CONJUNCTION WITH VISIT MALAYSIA 2020



On 4 March 2020, Tourism Malaysia Vientiane has hosted a Seminar and B2B in Promoting Malaysia Golden Month Holiday Campaign in conjunction with Visit Malaysia 2020 at Landmark Mekong Riverside Hotel, Vientiane, Lao PDR.

H.E. Ambassador Mohd Aini Atan officiated the event, and was accompanied by Mr. Noran Ujang, Director of International Promotion Division, Tourism Malaysia.

H.E. Ambassador, together with Mr. Noran and Ms. Sordaly Chanthavong, Marketing Manager of Tourism Malaysia Vientiane responded to various questions pertaining tourism in Malaysia during the press conference that was held after the Seminar. 29 Tour agents joined the seminar. 15 tour agents and 6 Malaysian companies involved in the business networking.

However, due to COVID-19 Pandemic, all Visit Malaysia campaign has now been cancelled. Nevertheless, hope the relations forged would remain.

## VISIT BY GLOBAL ISLAMIC STUDENT OUTREACH (GISO) GROUP FROM UNIVERSITI SAINS ISLAM MALAYSIA



On 31 January 2020, the Global Islamic Student Outreach (GISO) group of 25 students including 2 coordinating officers from Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM) visited the Embassy of Malaysia in Vientiane as part of their outreach programme in the Lao PDR.

Ambassador Mohd Aini shared his views and experience with the group on the Muslim community in the Lao PDR. During their visit to Laos, the group visited Al-Azhar Mosque in Vientiane to donate some food items. The group was also able to engage with the Muslim community in Vientiane.

## WELCOMING LUNCH HOSTED BY HE AMBASSADOR MOHD AINI ATAN



On 8 February 2020, H.E. Ambassador Mohd Aini hosted a lunch for H.E. Saleumxay Kommasith, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lao PDR and a group of Ambassadors to Lao PDR and Thailand at Four Seasons Restaurant in Vientiane.

The lunch was in conjunction with the Friendship Golf Gathering in Vientiane and Nongkhai, organised by the Embassy of Thailand in Vientiane and the Embassy of Lao PDR in Bangkok on 7-9 February 2020.



# VISIT TO THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE (NAFRI) AND THE RICE RESEARCH CENTRE



H.E. Ambassador Mohd Aini together with Embassy officials visited the National Agricultural and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI) Headquarters and the Rice Research Centre on 12 February 2020. The team was received by Dr. Chay Bounphanousay, Deputy Director General of NAFRI and was given a tour around the Institute.

H.E. Ambassador Mohd Aini and team later visited the Rice Research Centre and was received by Dr. Phetmanyseng Xangsayasane and Dr. Bounma Phengphachanh, Deputy Directors for Research, Rice Research Centre. The Embassy looks forward to work together with NAFRI and RRC in the future.



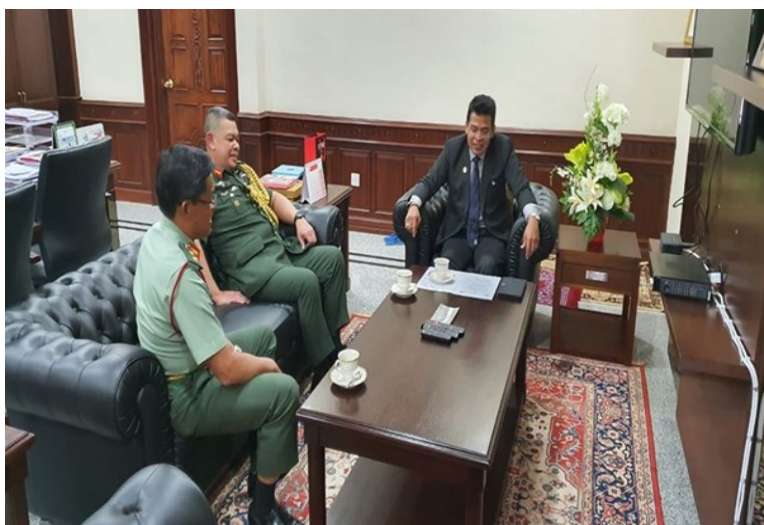
## MALAWAKIL VIENTIANE ACTIVITIES



On 3 February 2020, H.E. Ambassador Mohd Aini called on Mr. Douangmany Gnotsyoudom, Director General of Treaty and Law Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lao PDR at the latter's office to discuss on issues of mutual interest.



On 19 February 2020, Malawakil Vientiane welcomed the arrival of YB Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia at Wattay International Airport in conjunction with the Special ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting on COVID-19 on 20 February 2020.



Colonel Nadzri Che Lah called on HE Ambassador Mohd Aini and reported for duty as the new Defence Attaché at the Embassy of Malaysia, Vientiane on 25 February 2020.

Colonel Nadzri was accompanied by Colonel Mohd Mahmud Ahmad, the outgoing Defence Attaché.

## MALAWAKIL VIENTIANE ACTIVITIES



H.E. Ambassador Mohd Aini hosted an Appreciation Lunch at Ansara Hotel on 2 March 2020 for his counterparts from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR. H.E. Ambassador took the opportunity to update MFA Laos of Malaysia's latest political development.



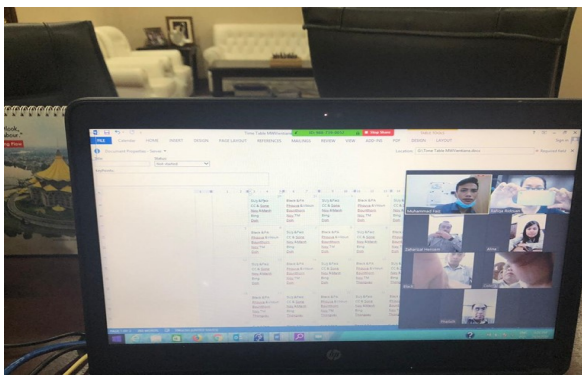
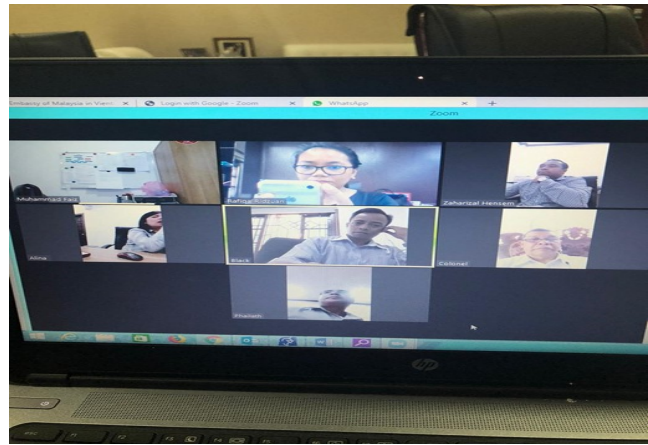
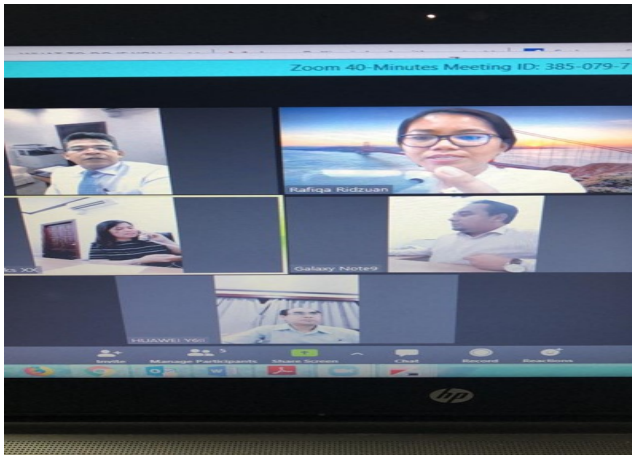
On 6 March 2020, H.E. Ambassador Mohd Aini Atan witnessed the signing of MoU between Muhibbah Engineering (M) Bhd and Sithi Logistics Lao Co. Ltd on Investment and Development of Thabok Thanaleng Dry Port and Vientiane Logistics Park Project.



On 11 March 2020, the Embassy organised a farewell lunch for Mr Johan Arief Jaafar, First Secretary at the Embassy of Malaysia, Vientiane.

The Embassy also took the opportunity to welcome the new Defence Attaché, Colonel Nadzri Che Lah to Vientiane, Lao PDR.

## MALAWAKIL VIENTIANE ACTIVITIES



MW Vientiane has established the COVID-19 Task Force at Mission and has been conducting daily Task Force Meeting via video conference.

On 31 March 2020, MW Vientiane has begun its working at Chancery rotation and shortened operating hours as part of our effort to curb the spread of the COVID-19 disease.

The Task Force regularly updates Wisma Putra and Malaysians in the country on the current situation and latest regulation or restriction imposed in the Lao PDR to curb the pandemic. The Task Force works closely with all local agencies namely immigration of- fice and the airport authorities for the wellbeing of Malaysians in Lao PDR.

#kitajagakita

## PERWAKILAN VIENTIANE



A welcoming dinner was held on 6 March 2020 at the Four Seasons restaurant to celebrate the latest members of the PERWAKILAN Vientiane, Mrs. Azmah Ishak, the spouse of Colonel Nadzri Che Lah, the new Defense Attache and Ms aAina Apo, Secretary to the Ambassador at the Embassy of Malaysia.

The dinner was also to celebrate Mrs Azmah's birthday that happened to fall on 6 March 2020.



On 6 March 2020, a hand sanitizer demonstration was held at the Chancery building of the Embassy, as part of curbing the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The PERWAKILAN Chairman, Madam Zaiedah Mohd Esa has demonstrated on how to produce hand sanitizer from organic materials. All PERWAKILAN members received a bottle of handmade hand sanitizer.

On 15 February 2020, PERWAKILAN Vientiane has organized a bike expedition around Vientiane City Centre. The group began from the Chancery building, passing by That Luang Temple, Patuxay, Presidential Palace and Thalat Sao. HE Ambassador Mohd Aini also joined in the fun.

The group had their breakfast stop at the Le Plateau Cafe before heading back to the Chancery.



## PERWAKILAN VIENTIANE



PERWAKILAN Vientiane had its 2nd meeting of the year on 6 March 2020. The meeting discussed in detail the activities planned for the year 2020.



Ladies of PERWAKILAN Vientiane has participated in the Lao Food Fest, under the ASEAN Women's Circle Vientiane ambit on 28 and 31 January 2020.

Assorted Malaysian cuisine were prepared and sold by the ladies at the Fest.

On 24 January 2020, PERWAKILAN and the Embassy officials have begun the first ever Kelas Bimbingan Malaysia. All HBS children joined in the fun learning about the Malaysian flag and national anthem Negaraku.



## PERWAKILAN VIENTIANE



PERWAKILAN Vientiane has held its first AGM on 18 January 2020. The meeting discussed and reviewed all the activities that were held in 2019 and has appointed the new committee for the year 2020/2021.

Later that night, PERWAKILAN ladies had its Annual Dinner at the Rest Café and Restaurant and to bid farewell to two of its members, Pn Jumaliah Paboh, former Treasurer and Ms. Siti Nooraida Mo-hamad, former Secretary of PERWAKILAN Vientiane.



**COVID-19 ALERT**  
**ADVISORY FOR MALAYSIANS RESIDING IN THE LAO PDR**

**For Malaysians residing in the Lao PDR**

- Malaysians residing in the Lao PDR are advised to immediately register with the Embassy of Malaysia, Vientiane, Lao PDR.
- To register, e-mail your particulars NAME, GENDER, IC/PASSPORT NUMBER, PHONE NUMBER (WHATSAPP & CALL) & LOCATION to [mwvientiane@kln.gov.my](mailto:mwvientiane@kln.gov.my)
- Registration is critical to ensure that relevant information and updates from the Embassy / Government of Malaysia could be communicated as effectively and efficiently as possible.
- Please refrain from non-essential travel. Following the announcement by the Government of Malaysia on 16 March 2020 concerning the imposition of travel restrictions on all Malaysians, please discourage family members, loved ones or friends from traveling to the Lao PDR until further notice.
- In Vientiane, three (3) Hospitals - Mittaphab Hospital, Setthethirath Hospital and 103 Hospital have been designated for isolation. In the provinces, suspected patients will be isolated at Provincial Hospitals.

Self-quarantine

Self-quarantine at home for 14 days is imposed on travellers under the following conditions:

Those coming from countries (which do not share a border with Laos) where more than 100 confirmed cases have been reported, although having no symptoms;

Travellers from neighbouring countries whose provinces do not share a border with Laos but have more than 10 confirmed cases reported in their province; and

Those from contagious provinces of neighbouring countries where more than three (3) confirmed cases have been reported.

People in self-quarantine at home are restricted from going out for any activity. The quarantined person is suggested not to contact or get close to another person. Family members or employers are required to facilitate their daily needs including food while being quarantined.

The quarantined people are required to daily monitor their condition, including flu symptoms, cough and breathing difficulty, to take good care of their health and always wash their hands.

Self-monitoring

Travellers entering Laos with no symptoms and whose conditions do not match isolation and home-quarantine criteria are told to impose self-monitoring. Travellers under the 14-day self-monitoring at home can go out for essential activities but are required to wear a mask and self-monitor their flu, cough and breathing difficulty condition daily.

For those under home-quarantine and self-monitoring who have developed flu-like symptoms, cough and breathing difficulties, you may wish to contact the Lao PDR's Task Force Committee's hotline 165, 166 or 020 5406 6777 to seek further advice.

### **Travel to Malaysia**

- From 18 to 28 April 2020, Malaysia's borders are closed to all foreign nationals, with exceptions applying to diplomats and certain other categories of persons only.
- However, those persons traveling to a third country i.e. on transit through Malaysia may continue to do so (without crossing immigration / passport control).
- In all cases, all persons entering Malaysia (citizens and non-citizens) will be subject to health screening and quarantine for 14 days. For more information on travel restrictions to Malaysia, visit:

<http://www.moh.gov.my/index.php/pages/view/2019-ncov-wuhan>

- The Ministry of Health has published guidelines for COVID-19 Management in Malaysia, accessible here:

[http://www.moh.gov.my/index.php/pages/view/2019-ncov-wuhan\\_guidelines](http://www.moh.gov.my/index.php/pages/view/2019-ncov-wuhan_guidelines)

- For more information on Malaysia's response to the outbreak, travel advisories / restrictions to Malaysia or guidelines for Malaysians who are planning trips abroad, please contact the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Task Force on the COVID-19 Pandemic or Embassy of Malaysia in Vientiane, as per the following:

#### **Ministry of Foreign Affairs Task Force on the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Telephone : +6 03 8887 8770

+6 03 8889 2746

+6 03 8887 4570

E-mail : covid19taskforce@kln.gov.my

#### **Embassy of Malaysia in Vientiane, Lao PDR**

Telephone : +856 21 414205/6

+856 20 560 699 82 (after office hours)

Fax : +856 21 414201

Email : mwvientiane@kln.gov.my