



HARIMAU WASHINGTON

Embassy of Malaysia, Washington DC

Highlights of the issue:

- *Programs in the First Quarter of 2020*
- *Embassy Response to COVID-19*
- *Activities of the ASEAN Committee in Washington DC*

14TH EDITION
JANUARY—JUNE 2020

EDITORIAL BOARD

Deputy Chief of Mission:

Ms. Murni Abdul Hamid

Editor in Chief:

Ms. Madonna John

Contributors:


Mr. Neow Choo Seong


Contact us at:


HARIMAU WASHINGTON

3516 International Court, NW
Washington D.C. 20008

: mwwashington@kln.gov.my

: +1 (202) 572 9700

: [MalawakilWashington](https://www.facebook.com/MalawakilWashington)

: [MYembassyWDC](https://twitter.com/MyEmbassyWDC)

Programs in the First Quarter of 2020

The Malaysia –America Society 2020 Annual General Meeting and Dinner

7 February, Washington DC: The Malaysia-America Society held its 2020 Annual General Meeting at the Grand Hall of the Embassy of Malaysia. The Meeting was held to elect the new Board of Directors and to discuss programs the society will undertake for 2020. The Meeting was followed by a dinner hosted by the Embassy of Malaysia and attended by Ambassador Dato' Azmil Zabidi, Mr. Mark D. Clark, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Southeast Asia of the Department of State as well as Heads of Departments at the Embassy.



HARIMAU WASHINGTON

Meeting with Assistant Secretary of State Mr. David Stillwell



10 March, Washington DC: Ambassador Dato' Azmil met with Mr. David R. Stilwell, Assistant Secretary of State from the Bureau of East Asian & Pacific Affairs, to inform the latter on the priorities of the Malaysian government under newly appointed Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin. At the meeting, Assistant Secretary Stilwell shared that while the U.S. is eager to work with all its trading partners, economic stability has been a challenge in the era of the coronavirus, since much trade between the U.S. and Asia and within Asia has come to a standstill. He conveyed his hope that all countries could still continue discussions on trade and other pertinent issues via other platforms such as the Indo-Pacific Business Forum.

Courtesy call by the Director General of the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (ITSO)

13 February, Washington DC : Ambassador Dato' Azmil welcomed a courtesy call by Mr. Patrick Masambu, Director General of the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (ITSO) at the Embassy. During the call, DG Masambu briefed the Ambassador on the background of the organization and its latest update. He also underscored the importance of ensuring participation by all ITSO members in the upcoming AP-39 meeting on 20-22 April in Washington DC. Also in attendance were Director of Legal Affairs ITSO, Ms. Renata B. David (left) and Ms. Murni Abdul Hamid, Deputy Chief of Mission.



Session with Ambassador Dato' Azmil on the Belt and Road Initiative at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)



11 March, Washington DC: Ambassador Dato' Azmil was invited to share Malaysia's perspective on China's Belt and Road Initiative in a moderated session at CSIS as part of an executive education workshop by the Center. The off-the record session was moderated by Mr. Matthew Goodman, senior vice president at CSIS and joined by senior officials from the U.S. government, multilateral development banks and the private sector.

A Visit to the First Signing Starbucks in Washington D.C.

29 February, Washington DC: Ambassador Dato' Azmil visited the first Signing Starbucks in D.C. upon the invitation of Ambassador Kamala Lakhdhir, the U.S. Ambassador in Malaysia and Roberta Cordano, President of Gallaudet University, an institution for deaf and hard of hearing students. The store, the first of its kind in the U.S. was inspired by a similar store in Kuala Lumpur that opened in 2016 with nine deaf partners.

Courtesy call by Mr. Predeep Nambiar from Free Malaysia Today



13 March, Washington DC: Ambassador Dato' Azmil received a courtesy call from Mr. Predeep Nambiar, a journalist with Malaysian publication, Free Malaysia Today. Mr. Nambiar was in Washington DC on the invitation of the Department of State for the International Visitor's Leadership Program (IVLP).



HARIMAU WASHINGTON

Implementation of the MyGov*Net.Global with MAMPU



26 February, Washington DC : A virtual meeting was held to inform Embassy staff on the implementation of MyGov*Net.Global Project at the Embassy of Malaysia, Washington D.C. This network project is aimed at providing an effective, reliable, and secure private telecommunications network to all Malaysian missions abroad. Last year, officials from the Malaysian Administrative Modernisation and Management Planning Unit (MAMPU) and the ICT unit of Wisma Putra held a two-day briefing for Embassy staff to give them an over-view on the implementation of the MyGov*Net.Global.

Embassy Adoption Program

15 February, Washington D.C. : The Embassy is a participant of the Embassy Adoption Program organised by the District of Columbia Public Schools and Washington Performing Arts. For the 2019/2020 session, the Embassy was partnered with 5th Graders of Ross Elementary School. During the first session led by Deputy Chief of Mission, Ms. Murni Abdul Hamid, the students were introduced to Malaysian history, culture, its society and attractions. During the second session, the students were introduced to traditional Malaysian games like "congkak", "ceper", "sepak bulu ayam" and "batu seremban" and had an enjoyable time trying out all the games.



North American International Model

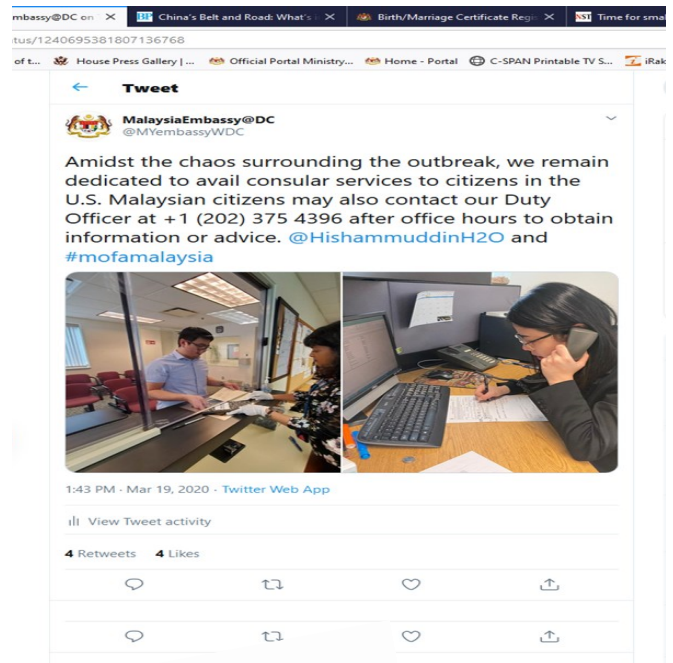
14 February, Washington DC : The Embassy hosted 30 students from the North American International Model United Nations (NAIMUN) conference organized by Georgetown University. NAIMUN is an annual student conference involving over 3,000 delegates made up of 9 -12th graders. The students were given a briefing on Malaysia by Deputy Chief of Mission, Ms. Murni Abdul Hamid, and also sampled some Malaysian snacks like *kari pap*, *bingka ubi* and *teh tarik*.



HARIMAU WASHINGTON

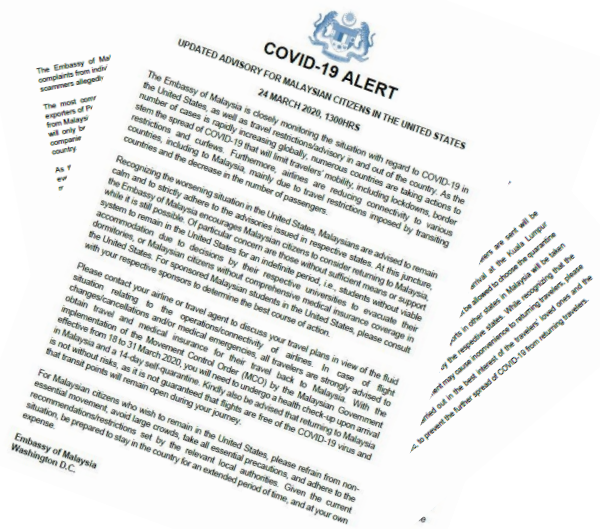
Embassy Response to COVID-19

18 March, Washington DC: At the advent of the COVID-19 outbreak, the Embassy of Malaysia in Washington D.C. took the proactive step of establishing an Emergency Response Team or ERT (*Pasukan Tindakan Kecemasan Khas*) to monitor and respond to the rapidly evolving situation in the U.S. The ERT's objective is to provide timely and necessary information/advice/assistance to Malaysian citizens/students in the U.S. In the case of an evacuation, the ERTs is also tasked to oversee all logistical needs such as public outreach, accommodation, sustenance, transportation, etc. The Embassy continued to provide consular assistance to Malaysians in the country who were affected by COVID-19, such as those onboard cruise ships off the coasts of the U.S.



Advisories Issued by the Embassy

24 March, Washington DC: The Embassy of Malaysia launched phase one of its evacuation plan which is to advise Malaysian citizens, particularly targeting vulnerable groups, to return to Malaysia at their own expense through commercial flights. The Embassy has also issued several Advisories to keep citizens updated on the current situation surrounding the pandemic. Among others, the Embassy has issued an advisory for Malaysian citizens in the US to register with the Embassy; for Malaysian students in the US that included guidelines for students issued by the CDC and relevant contact information in case of emergencies; information on the 14-day mandatory quarantine imposed by the Malaysian Government; for private / self-sponsored Malaysian students in the US urging them to register their contact details with the Embassy; and an advisory to take extra precaution in view of increasing criminal activities that seek to take advantage of the COVID-19 pandemic.



HARIMAU WASHINGTON

Engagement with the U.S. Government

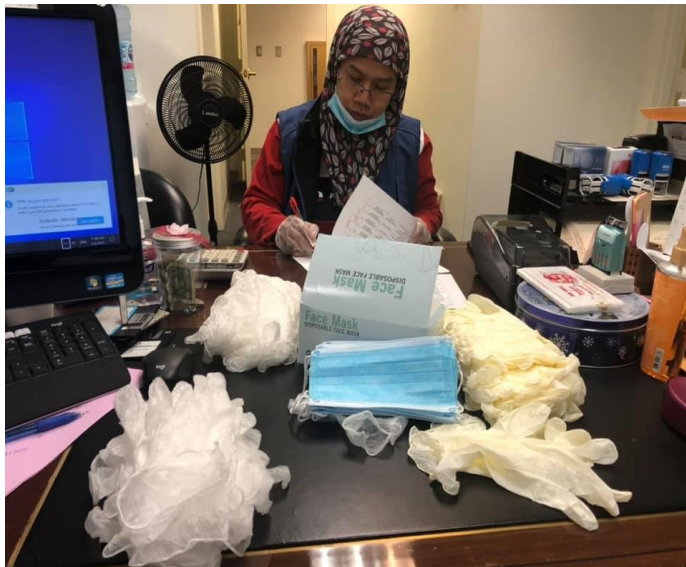
April—June 2020, Washington DC : The Embassy continued to actively engage with U.S. government officials as well as members of Congress on various issues. On 29 April, Ms. Allison Hooker, Deputy Assistant to President Trump, who is also the Senior Director for Asia at the U.S. National Security Council, spoke to Ambassador Dato' Azmil Zabidi via a conference call. During the call, she inquired on the COVID-19 situation in Malaysia and the government's response to stem the pandemic. On 22 May, Ambassador Dato' Azmil had a conference call on *Energy Issues in the Indo-Pacific region and South China Sea* with Deputy Assistant Secretary (DAS) of Energy Diplomacy, Mr Kurt Donnelly. On 1st June, the Ambassador also spoke to Congressman Amerish 'Ami' Bera to discuss Malaysia's response to COVID-19 and cooperation with other nations in the region in relation to the pandemic, as well as U.S.-China tensions. Congressman Bera is the Chair of the Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and Nonproliferation in the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. On 17 June, Ambassador Samuel Brownback, Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom, held a conference call with Ambassador Dato' Azmil to discuss the issue of enforced disappearances, as well as religious freedom in Malaysia.



HARIMAU WASHINGTON

Assistance to Malaysian Students

March—June 2020, Washington DC: The Embassy through the Student Affairs sub-committee, *Task Force Hal Ehwal Pelajar* (HEP) of the Embassy Emergency Response Team, closely monitors the situation of Malaysian students in the US, as well as updates from respective universities. The Task Force has also facilitated Malaysian students who have been displaced due to their universities' instruction for students to vacate their dormitories by advising and supporting them to negotiate and appeal with the universities directly. So far, these appeals have been successful, and the students were allowed back to their dormitories. Further, the Education Malaysia (EM) office has also been working closely with the National Assembly of Malaysian Students in America (NAMSA) to address the problem of students who have been displaced. NAMSA, in collaboration with EMDC, has launched an *Emergency Accommodation Initiative* for displaced Malaysian students in the U.S. by finding temporary accommodation for those affected. On 7 May, EMDC through close coordination with NAMSA, also managed to distribute more than 2,000 face-masks and safety gloves to more than 1,000 Malaysian students in the U.S.



HARIMAU WASHINGTON

Engagement with the Business Community

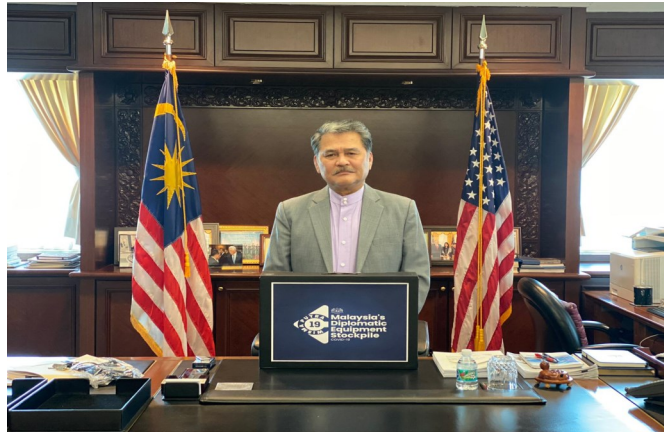
March—June 2020, Washington DC : The Embassy has also been actively engaging with the business community in the U.S. to ensure an open supply chain of critical products/parts for medical equipment that have been in demand during the COVID-19 crisis. The Trade Office in the Embassy has facilitated the application of exemptions from many U.S. companies with supply chains in Malaysia, and in some cases helped to appeal to MITI HQ for companies that approached the Embassy directly seeking for assistance. The ASEAN Committee in Washington DC (ACW) has also been facilitating engagement with the business community via the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the U.S.-ASEAN Business Council via virtual sessions and webinars to provide updates to the companies and businesses that have investments in the region, especially when there was a temporary halt in operations in the manufacturing sector at the peak of the pandemic.



HARIMAU WASHINGTON

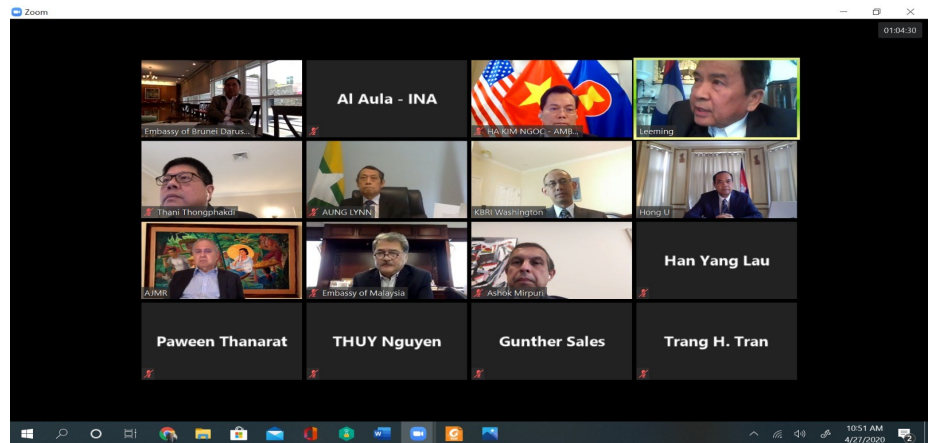
Media and Community Engagement

March—June 2020, Washington DC : The Embassy has engaged with the Malaysian in media on numerous occasions providing information on the situation in the U.S. and on Malaysian students here. The Embassy also worked together with the U.S. Embassy on Kuala Lumpur to produce a video in conjunction with the fasting month of Ramadhan in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. Both the U.S. Ambassador in Malaysia and the Malaysian Ambassador in the U.S. came together in solidarity and wished all Muslims in Malaysia and the U.S. a blessed Ramadhan and reminded them of the importance of staying home during the fasting month. Ambassador Dato' Azmil was also featured on a video by Wisma Putra promoting the Malaysian Diplomatic Equipment Stockpile Initiative (MDES). On Hari Raya Aidilfitri, the Embassy led by the Ambassador, reached out via a televised video message on Buletin Awani to wish all Muslims in the U.S. a blessed Hari Raya celebration in these challenging times and to register with the Embassy if they have not done so.



Activities of the ASEAN Committee in Washington DC

March—June 2020, Washington DC : Even with the pandemic, the ACW has remained active and kept connected via teleconference sessions and virtual meetings. Ambassador Dato' Azmil led the Embassy in participating in a number of virtual activities after social distancing guidelines were implemented, namely; an ASEAN Committee in Washington (ACW) Ambassadors' Meeting via video conference to discuss the COVID-19 situation and its economic impact on the region on 27 April; VTC between ASEAN Ambassadors and Ms. Valerie Boyd, Assistant Secretary for International Affairs, U.S .Department of Homeland Security on 29 April; Briefing by law firm Akin Gump on U.S. COVID policy, stimulus outlook and China policy outlook on 14 May; a Virtual Discussion Session with Dr. Mari Elka Pangestu, Managing Director for Development Policy & Partnerships at the World Bank on the topic of "East Asia in Time of COVID19" on 28 May; a Video Conference briefing between Assistant Secretary David R. Stillwell and ACW on "Update on US Foreign Policy in Asia-Pacific" on 23 June; and a Senior Leaders Forum U.S. - ASEAN Business Council on U.S. - ASEAN Health Cooperation on 30 June. Ambassador Dato' Azmil also participated in a Virtual Independence Day Reception hosted by the Philippine Embassy in conjunction with its 122nd Anniversary of the Proclamation of Independence on 12 June.



HARIMAU WASHINGTON

ASEAN WOMEN'S CIRCLE (AWC) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

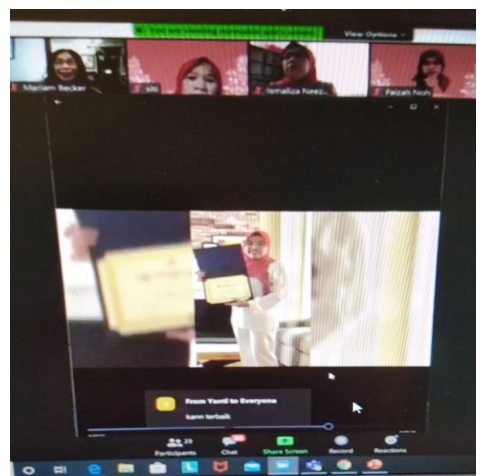
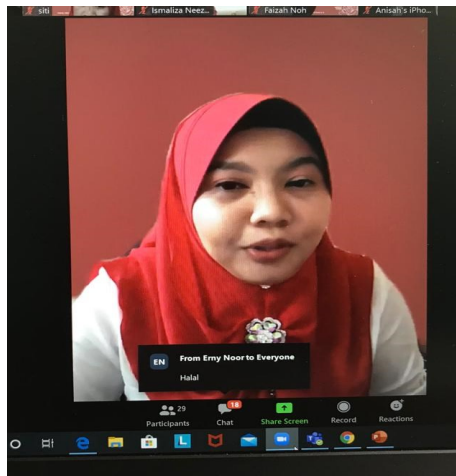
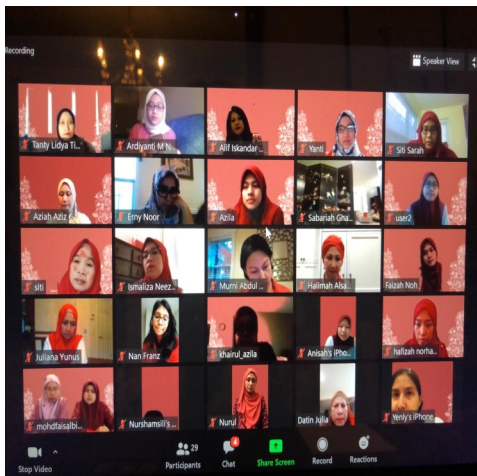
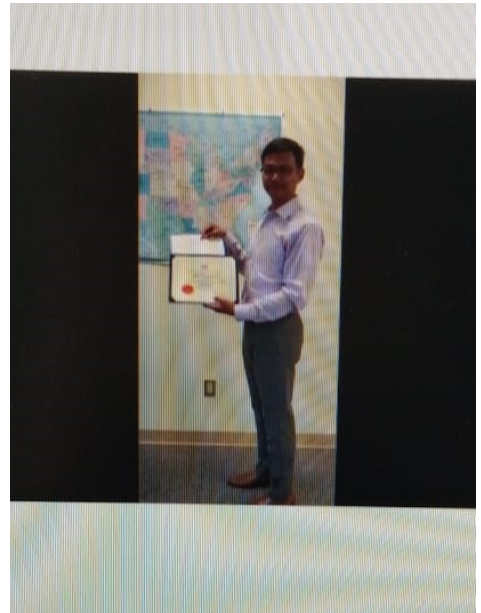
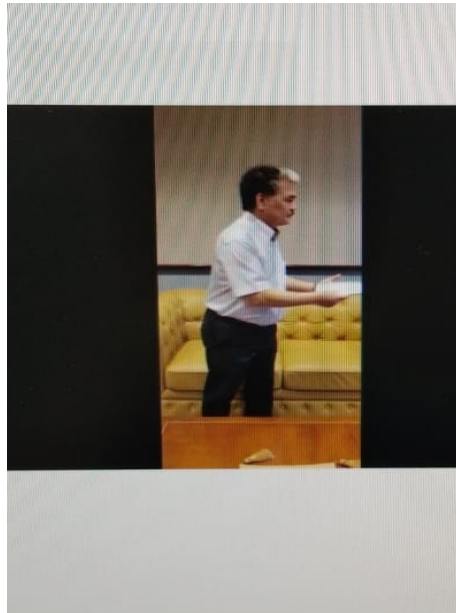
28 February 2020, Washington DC : Malaysia attended the ASEAN Women's Circle (AWC) 1st Executive Committee Meeting of the year 2020 and Annual General Meeting where Vietnam handed over the AWC Presidency to Myanmar. Executive members of the AWC unanimously agreed to the appointment of Madam Kay Thi Kyi Win, Executive Committee Member of Myanmar as the next AWC-DC President. The AGM also identified AWC programs and activities for 2020, among them, a visit to the *Bureau of Engraving and Printing*, ziplining or canopy walk suggested by Malaysia, and a Kennedy Center REACH tour suggested by the Philippines. During the AGM that was attended by more than 100 AWC members, Vietnam as out-going Chair also organized an ASEAN Fashion Show to introduce traditional outfits of ASEAN member countries to AWC members.



TILL WE MEET AGAIN...

January - June

The Embassy bid adieu to our colleague who will be returning to Malaysia, Mr. Muhammad Zaki Abdul Ghani, Counselor at the Embassy and wife Puan Nurshamsili Dzulkefli. Due to the social distancing measures in place, the farewell ceremony was held virtually for both Mr. Muhammad Zaki by the Embassy, and for his wife, by members of PERWAKILAN. The virtual session was held via the Zoom application and included a virtual presentation of certificates and tokens of appreciation. We wish our dear colleague and family all the best as he pursues the next leg of his career path!



INSTRUCTIONS FOR EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE (TRAVEL DOCUMENT) IN LIEU OF LOST PASSPORT AT EMBASSY OF MALAYSIA, WASHINGTON D.C.

You are required to come in person to submit your application. Kindly contact us to schedule an appointment. Application by mail will only be considered with a valid written explanation.

- Copy of passport (if available)
- Recent Police Report (report must state Malaysian passport is lost)
- Fully completed "Borang Soal Selidik Kehilangan Pasport Malaysia" (IM.42c) form
- Fully completed Report of Lost Passport (IM.203) form
- Fully completed "Borang Daftar Kehilangan/Kerosakan bagi Pasport Yang Masih Sah Laku" form

Fully completed Borang IM.42 and signed by applicant

(IMPORTANT: Please be sure to place your right thumb print as indicated on the application form IM.42)

- Two (2) notarized (original copies) of Malaysian Identity Card (*Front & Back*)
- Two (2) notarized (original copies) of Malaysian Birth Certificate

Fully completed Registration of Malaysian Citizens in the USA form and contact information form

- A copy of your flight itinerary OR copy of airline ticket
- The processing fee is US\$16.00 - Money Order made payable to "Embassy of Malaysia". (*We do not accept personal checks or credit cards*)
- Three (3) passport-sized photograph – 2inch x 2 inch / white background only; taken within 2 weeks (*please do not attach to application form*)
- For return postage – USPS Express Mail only

(We require envelope, label and one single stamp of US\$26.35 available from your local Post Office)

NOTE:

1. ***To ensure a prompt processing please make sure that all supporting documents are certified/notarized by a Notary Public. Failure to do so will only delay the process of your application.***
2. ***The Emergency Certificate (Travel Document) has limited validity from the date of issue. Kindly plan your trip accordingly.***

LIST OF COUNTRIES THAT DO NOT RECOGNIZE MALAYSIAN EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE (TRAVEL DOCUMENT):

**BRUNEI
GERMANY
ITALY
NORWAY
SENEGAL**

**CANADA
HOLLAND
JAPAN
OMAN
SUDAN**

**CHILE
IRAN
JORDAN
PAPUA NEW GUINEA
SWITZERLAND**

**FRANCE
IRAQ
KUWAIT
U.A.E.
TURKEY**

CHINA