



EMBASSY OF MALAYSIA BERLIN

Newsletter

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NATIONAL DAY 2015 IN BERLIN



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The Embassy of Malaysia, Berlin hosted a reception on the occasion of Malaysia's National Day 2015 at Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Berlin on 16 September 2015. The event was attended by more than 280 guests representing the German government, diplomatic corps, business sector, academic institutions, think tanks, civil society organizations as well as the various Malaysian communities in Germany. H.E. Dr. Norbert Riedel, Regional Director for the Asia and the Pacific at the Federal Foreign Office was invited as the guest of honour at the Reception.

In his welcoming remark, Ambassador of Malaysia to the Federal Republic of Germany, H.E. Dato' Zulkifli Adnan touched on the close relations between Germany and Malaysia that dates back to after Malaysia gained its independence in 1957. He noted various institutional and legal frameworks that support the bilateral relations as well as the strong political will to bring the relationship to a higher level, as evidenced by high level exchanges that have taken place or are being planned in the near future. He [high-](#)

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(From front page)

lighted a number of upcoming high level exchanges between Malaysia and Germany, which include amongst others, Malaysia's trade mission to Stuttgart in September 2015 as well as the trade mission to Malaysia led the Parliamentary State Secretary at the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy in October 2015.

H.E. Ambassador further highlighted the importance of Malaysia-Germany trade, which defines the bilateral relations between the two countries. Like many other countries in the world, Germany is one of Malaysia's most important trading partner. This is evidenced by encouraging bilateral trade and investment figures, which recorded significant growth in 2014.

On the recent fall of the Malaysian Ringgit, H.E. Ambassador assured that despite the negative perception, Malaysia is still in a better position compared to during the Asian financial crisis in 1997. Despite the currency drop, positive growth which exceeded expectations was still seen in the first half of 2015. In terms of rankings, Malaysia remains among the most competitive and business-friendly nations

in the world.

In his remark, Dr. Riedel echoed H.E. Ambassador's sentiment with regard to the close relationship between Malaysia and Germany. To Germany, Malaysia is an important partner in the Southeast Asia, and it is in Germany's interest to see relations with Malaysia continue to flourish. He further commended the active role that Malaysia is playing in ASEAN and the UN Security Council and stated that with keen interest, Germany is closely keeping an eye on the development of ASEAN, especially in light of the opportunities presented by the realization of the ASEAN Community by the end of 2015.

Dr. Riedel also commended Malaysia for its ability to remain resilient despite the uncertainties faced in the global financial environment. Contrary to the western countries, countries in Asia, including Malaysia, have learned their lesson during the 1997/1998 financial crisis and thus were able to endure the current economic challenges.

(More photos of the event in page 8)



EIDUL FITRI 1436H AT THE EMBASSY OF MALAYSIA

On 1 Syawal 1436H (17 July 2015), Muslims around the world celebrated Eidul Fitri to mark the end of the fasting month of Ramadhan. In Berlin, the Embassy of Malaysia and Malaysians from all over Germany gathered for a traditional Malaysian-style celebration.

The event began at 8:00 in the morning with the recital of takbir, followed by An Eidul Fitri prayer led by Mr. Bakar Idris and a sermon (Khutbah) titled "*Tautan Kasih Pelengkap 'Eidul Fitri'*". Non-Muslim friends joined later for a spread of traditional Malaysian Eidul Fitri dishes such as Satay, Rendang, Lodeh, Nasi Impit and many more.

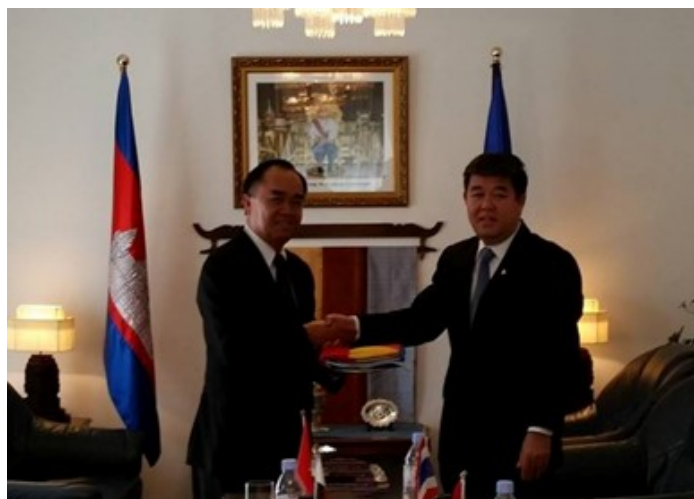


(See page 9 for more photos of the event)

Eidulfitri sermon titled "*Pautan Kasih Pelengkap Eidulfitri*" delivered by Mr. Bakar Idris

LAO PDR ASSUMES THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE BERLIN ASEAN COMMITTEE

After Cambodia's 6-month term as the Chair of the Berlin ASEAN Committee (BAC), it was Lao PDR's turn to assume leadership role of the Committee. Members of the Berlin ASEAN Committee (BAC) met at the Embassy of the Kingdom of Cambodia on 28 July 2015 to witness the handover of the Chairmanship. The handover ceremony was preceded by a BAC meeting, where the Committee reviewed activities that have been undertaken throughout the past 6 months and discussed activities to be undertaken under the next Chairmanship.



Outgoing BAC Chair, H.E. Thai Chun, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Cambodia (right) hands over the ASEAN Flag to the incoming Chair, H.E. Sithong Chitnhothinh, Ambassador of Lao PDR



VISIT BY GUSTAV-HEINEMANN HIGH SCHOOL

On 10 July 2015, 27 students and 3 teachers from Gustav-Heinemann Oberschule in Marienfelde held a visit at the Embassy of Malaysia. The group, comprising students from the 9th grade, organized the visit as part of their English language activity.

Mr. Mohd Shuhada Othman, Minister Counsellor, welcomed the group, who delivered an introductory presentation on activities carried out throughout the school year. The group also learned a bit about Malaysia from a presentation delivered by Embassy officials, and sampled some simple Malaysian dishes.

NETWORKING EVENT WITH TOUR AGENTS IN BERLIN



Tourism Malaysia (TM) Frankfurt hosted a networking event with Tour agents in Berlin on 30 July 2015. Some 60 participants, mostly representatives of tour agencies and airline companies based in Berlin attended the event. Also present were H.E. Ambassador, Mr. Junus Suhid, Director of TM London, and Mr. Rizal Mas, Deputy Director of TM Frankfurt. The event, held at Suntravel GmbH Berlin, aimed to promote Malaysia's potential as a major tourist destination in the Asian region as well as to encourage more tour operators to include Malaysia in their tour packages.



PRESENTATION ON EXPLORATION PROJECT FOR POLYMETALLIC SULPHIDES IN THE CENTRAL INDIAN OCEAN BY THE GERMAN INSTITUTE FOR GEOSCIENCE AND NATURAL RESOURCES,

On 27 August 2015, members of the Embassy had the opportunity to attend a presentation on Germany's exploration for Polymetallic Sulphides. The presentation was delivered by Dr. Ulrich Schwarz-Schampera from the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources of the Federal Republic of Germany (BGR). Also present during the presentation were representatives from the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy. The briefing centred on a contract signed by BGR and the International Seabed Authority (ISA) for exploration of polymetallic sulphides in the Central Indian Ocean. There was also discussion on Germany's experience in deep seabed mining as well as possible collabora-

tion opportunities between Malaysia and Germany in the field of seabed mining.



ASEAN TURNS 48

Berlin, 9 September - Embassy of Malaysia, together with 9 other ASEAN embassies in Berlin, co-organized a reception on the occasion of the 48th ASEAN Day. Held at the Residence of the Thai Ambassador to Germany in Steglitz, the event was attended by some 240 guests comprising government officials, business representatives, civil society organization representatives, think tank representatives as well as members from ASEAN communities around Berlin.

The event was graced by the presence of Dr. Thomas Gambke, Chairman of the ASEAN Parliamentary Group in the Bundestag, and Ambassador Dr. Dieter Haller, Director General for Economic Affairs and Sustainable Development at the Federal Foreign Office as guests of honour.

Held under the "food bazaar" concept, the event featured 10 booths, each serving authentic dishes from an ASEAN Member State.

Referring to the realization of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), H.E. Sithong Chitnhothinh, Ambassador of Lao PDR and Chair of the Berlin ASEAN Committee (BAC) emphasised that that if Member States come together with a common vision, harmonious systems and integrated economies, ASEAN would undoubtedly be able to transform itself into a major global economic player. With a market of more than 620 million inhabitants, ASEAN provides a labour force that is only behind China and India. He added that by the year 2030, ASEAN's combined GDP is expected to grow to approximately US\$10 billion, four times its 2015 figure. He welcomed Germany to be an active participant of the AEC. In addition, work is underway to develop an AEC post-2015 agenda. The agenda will allow Member States to move up the development ladder in sustainable manner while at the same time enhancing ASEAN's centrality in the regional and global architecture.

In his remark, Dr. Gambke commended the tremendous progress that ASEAN has achieved and reaffirmed the German Government's support towards the ASEAN Community-building process. Like many other members of the international community, the German Government is closely looking at what will happen to ASEAN after 2015.

The sentiment by Dr. Gambke was echoed by Dr. Haller in his speech. He emphasised that the German Government is pushing for more active engagement with Southeast Asia. At the regional level, Germany wants an ASEAN-EU strategic partnership that focuses on areas such as trade, energy, environmental and climate protection, resolving non-traditional security threats, enhancing connectivity.

Throughout the event, guests were also treated to a variety of cultural performances from Lao PDR, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam.



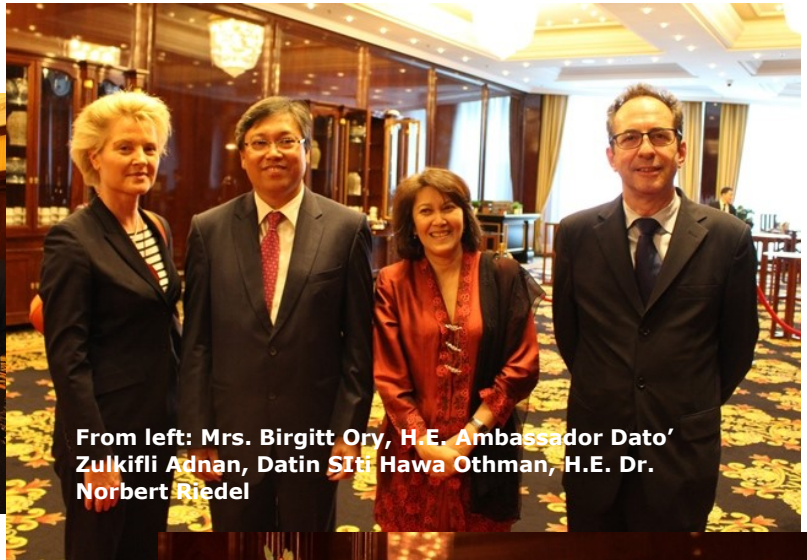
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1. Laotian greeting dance
2. Malaysian booth at the ASEAN Day reception
3. H.E. Ambassador Dato' Zulkifli Adnan welcoming one of the guests of honour, Dr. Dieter Haller
4. ASEAN Ambassadors with the guests of honour.
5. Members of the Malaysia Club of Berlin with H.E. Ambassador Dato' Zulkifli Adnan



Members of the Embassy and Malaysian agencies with counterparts from Brunei Darussalam



From left: Mrs. Birgitt Ory, H.E. Ambassador Dato' Zulkifli Adnan, Datin Siti Hawa Othman, H.E. Dr. Norbert Riedel

Malaysia's National Day 2015 in Berlin



Above: Members of the Mari Bersama Club , Hamburg, posing with H.E. Ambassador and wife

Right: H.E. Ambassador with the Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps, H.E. Archbishop Dr. Nikola Eterović



Eidulfitir 1436H at the Embassy of Malaysia



1. From left: H.E. Amb. Dr.-Ing. Fauzi Bowo, H.E. Ambassador Jai Sohan, Mdm. Daphne Sohan, Datin Siti Hawa Othman, Mdm. Sri Hartati Bowo, H.E. Dato' Zulkifli Adnan
2. Duit Raya (Eid Money), a Malaysian tradition
3. Malaysians in Germany posing for a group photo.
4. Guests enjoying a spread of traditional Raya delicacies.

MALAYSIAN HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT FUND EMBARKS ON COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES WITH GERMAN PARTNERS

A delegation from the Malaysian Human Resources Development Fund (HRDF) visited Berlin from 2 to 11 September 2015. Led by Chief Executive Mr. CM Vignaesvaran Jeyandran, the delegation brought along some 20 representatives from Malaysian small and medium enterprises (SME) to participate in "ESMT Smart Business Leaders' Program". This program, held for the very first time, is a result of collaboration between HRDF and the European School of Management Technology (ESMT). The Program gave Malaysian SME representatives an opportunity to

learn from their German counterparts and seek new business opportunities.

During the visit, HRDF also met with representatives from the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi). During the meeting, there were discussions on issues related to development of human resource and SMEs. Mr. Alexander Stedtfelt, former Managing Director of the German Malaysia Chamber of Commerce, now Deputy Head of Tourism Policy Division at BMWi also delivered a presentation on SME policy in Germany.



Mr. Vignaesvaran (left) presenting a memento to Mr. Alexander Stedtfelt

EIDUL ADHA 1436H AT THE EMBASSY



A small Eidul Adha celebration was held at the Embassy of Malaysia on 24 September 2015. The event began at 8:00am with Takbir, followed by Eidul Adha prayer led by Mr. Bakar Idris. A special Eidul Adha sermon titled "Berkorban Apa Saja" followed. After the prayer, guests enjoyed a modest spread of traditional and modern dishes, potluck-style.

BARBECUE GET-TOGETHER AT RUMAH MALAYSIA

H.E. Ambassador Dato' Zulkifli Adnan and wife, Datin Siti Hawa Othman hosted a barbecue get-together at their Official Residence (Rumah Malaysia) on 5 September 2015. Approximately 100 guests, mostly Malaysians living in Germany, as well as friends of Malaysia attended the get-together. Guests enjoyed an extensive spread of typical barbecue as well as traditional Malaysian dishes. Apart from good food and company, the event also gave the Malaysia Club of Berlin (MCB) an opportunity to introduce itself to Malaysians in Berlin and attract new memberships.

A Facebook Page for MCB was also launched during the get-together.



Find Malaysia Club of Berlin on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Malaysia-Club-of-Berlin-1044789475545101/timeline/>



RESIDENTS GROUP LEARN ABOUT MALAYSIA DURING A VISIT AT THE EMBASSY

On 22 September 2015, a group of 25 members from residents group Wohnungsbaugenossenschaft "Humboldt-Universität" visited the Embassy. The group has been actively organizing activities that promote cultural exchanges and awareness, and this time, they have chosen to learn more about Malaysia.

At the Embassy, the group was taken for a brief tour around the Embassy complex and attended a presentation on Malaysia, its cultural diversity and socio-political characteristics.



EMBASSY OF MALAYSIA WELCOMED SENIOR WOMEN GROUP



After Wohnungsbaugenossenschaft "Humboldt-Universität", the Embassy is delighted to welcome a group of 22 senior women for a visit at the Embassy on 29 September 2015. The group, active, curious and fun-loving, was eager to learn more about Malaysia.

At the Embassy, the group was taken on a brief tour around the Embassy complex before listening to a short presentation on Malaysia by Minister Counsellor, Mrs. Rus Shazila Osman.

UPCOMING PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Holiday	Date	Day
Awal Muharram	October 14	Wednesday
Deepavali	November 10	Tuesday
Prophet Muhammad's Birthday	December 24	Thursday
Christmas	December 25	Friday

Note: Public holidays observed by the Embassy of Malaysia is subject to change. Any change in the dates of Embassy's closure will be announced through the Embassy's official website and Facebook page.

THE EMBASSY WELCOMES A NEW FAMILY MEMBER



In August, the Embassy welcomed the arrival of Mrs. Rus Shazila Osman and her family. Born in Pahang, Mrs. Rus Shazila is a holder of MSc in European Policy Law and Management from Robert Gordon University, UK.

Her diplomatic career began in 1998 with her appointment as Assistant Director in the Public Service Department. She later served at the National Security Council before transferring to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. At the Ministry, she served in the Maritime Division (2004-2005) and Consular Division (2005-2006) before going for her first overseas assignment as a First Secretary at the Embassy of Malaysia, Berne. Mrs. Shazila later spent another stint at the Ministry, this time as the Principal Assistant Secretary in the Development Division before assuming the position of Minister Counsellor at the Embassy of Malaysia, Berlin.



On the occasion of the National Sports Day 2015, the Embassy of Malaysia, together with the Malaysia Club of Berlin, will organize a cycling tour on Saturday, 10 October 2015. The event will be held at Tempelhofer Feld between 9:30am and 1:00pm. The cycling activity will be followed by potluck picnic.

Those interested are requested to register by sending a short email to info@malemb.de. Please put "National Sports Day 2015 Bicycle Tour" in the subject field and indicate your name and the name of family members / friends who will be joining.

Find out more about the event from the Embassy's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/783348765125184/>

Note: Participants are requested to bring own bicycle for the event. Rental bicycles are also available near / within the vicinity of Tempelhofer Feld.



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 <https://www.facebook.com/MalaysianEmbassyBerlin>