



## OMAN—MALAYSIA ART EXHIBITION 2015 IN MUSCAT



His Excellency Umardin Hj Abdul Mutalib, Ambassador of Malaysia to Oman accompanied Her Highness Janab Al Sayyida Mayya Bint Hamoud Al Said in cutting the ribbon to officiate the opening of the Oman-Malaysia Art Exhibition.

Her Highness Janab Al Sayyida Mayya Bint Hamoud Al Said officiated the opening of the maiden Oman-Malaysia art exhibition entitled, “Blended Echoes” on 9 September 2015 at the prestigious Opera Galleria of the Royal Opera House Muscat. The auspicious event was well attended by over one hundred invited guests including representatives from the government officials, diplomatic corps, art enthusiasts and the media. The exhibition was opened to the public from 10 to 11 September 2015.

The event was held under the patronage of the Embassy of Malaysia in Oman and organised by the Malaysian Business and Professional Circle in Oman. The exhibition exhibited more than forty art pieces from established and emerging artists from Oman and Malaysia. Malaysian artists who participated in

the exhibition were S. Amin Shahab, Nizar Kamarul Ariffin Christine Das, Poojitha Menon and Sivarajah Natarajan while Abdul Majed Karoh, Safiya Al Bahlani, Abdul



Her Highness Janab Al Sayyida Mayya Bint Hamoud Al Said viewed some of the pictures displayed in the exhibition.



Malaysian Artist, S. Amin Shahab with his one-kilometer Canvas Painting of the World

Kareem Al Maimani, Dr. Mona Al Baiti, Maryam Al Wahaibi and Abdullah Al Busaidi represented Oman.

His Excellency Umardin Hj Abdul Mutalib, Ambassador of Malaysia to Oman, in his welcoming speech congratulated the Malaysian Business and Professional Circle in Oman for organising such initiative to bring two nations together through art. He is also appreciative of the support given by prominent establishments such as the Royal Opera House Muscat, Qatar Airways, Ford and Lincoln in celebrating the strong diplomatic and cultural ties between the people and government of Malaysia and Oman.

The opening night was truly a Malaysian affair with the royal guest was accompanied to the exhibition hall by melodious beat of the *kompang* with ladies in traditional Malay dresses holding the *bunga pabar*. A silat demonstration was also presented before the crowd. Guests had the opportunity to meet the artists and viewed their paintings accompanied by live oud music played by a renowned oud (*gambus*) player from the Royal Oman Symphony Orchestra.

Her Highness Mayya, an art enthusiast herself, spent more than two hours viewing the paintings and interacting with the respective Omani and Malaysian artists.

The highly acclaimed Malaysian artist, S. Amin Shahab was the highlight of the show with sections of his one (1) kilometre Canvas Painting of the World on display,

which drew much attention from those present at the exhibition.

- End -



Her Highness Mayya and His Excellency Umardin with some VIPs and guests

### FACTS ON MALAYSIA-OMAN ECONOMIC RELATION

- ◆ In January - June 2015, Oman was Malaysia's 7th largest trading partner in Middle East; and
- ◆ Bilateral trade between Oman and Malaysia reached to USD 250 million in January - June 2015.

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# ASEAN COMMITTEE IN MUSCAT (ACM) HOSTED THE “48TH ASEAN DAY” EVENT



Behind from left: H.E. Dr. Pornchai Danvivathana (Thailand), H.E. Dato Dr. Haji Besar bin Haji Abu Bakar (Brunei), H.E. Sukanto (Indonesia), H.E. Umardin Haji Abdul Mutalib (Malaysia), H.E. Narciso T. Castaneda (The Philippines), and Mr. Richard Grosse (Consul General of Singapore)  
Front from left: Mrs. Dounghatai Danvivathana (Thai Ambassador's spouse), Datin Hajah Norbayura binti Haji Lamit (Brunei Ambassador's spouse), Mrs. Nilam Larasati Sukanto (Indonesian Ambassador's spouse), Mrs. Faridah Shariff (Malaysian Ambassador's spouse), and Mrs. Cleofe Castaneda (The Philippine Ambassador's spouse)

“THE “OPEN HOUSE”  
CONCEPT IS UNIQUE TO  
MALAYSIA AS IT  
PROMOTES UNITY AND  
TOLERANCE IN A  
COUNTRY THAT HAS  
DIVERSE ETHNIC,  
RELIGIOUS AND  
LINGUISTIC GROUPS.”

On 10 August 2015, the ASEAN Committee in Muscat (ACM) celebrated the 48th Anniversary of ASEAN Day at Crowne Plaza Hotel. More than 150 guests attended the auspicious occasion held in the

Crowne Plaza Hotel.

On behalf of the ASEAN Ambassadors, the Ambassador of Brunei, His Excellency Dato Dr Haji Besar Hj Abu Bakar welcomed the guests and expressed gratitude for their attendance in the event. The

occasion was officiated with a symbolic cake cutting ceremony by Ambassadors of ASEAN countries mainly from Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, and Thailand, and Consul General of Singapore, and a representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman.

The occasion was to commemorate the formation of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations or ASEAN. The organisation was originally founded by Indonesia, Malaysia, The Philippines, Singapore and Thailand on 8 August 1967 with the aim to strengthen regional cooperation. Other countries such as Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam later joined and completed the ASEAN group as can be seen today. - End -

## “OPEN HOUSE” CELEBRATING EID AL-FITR

On 18 July 2015, H.E. known as “Open House” is Ambassador Umardin bin Abdul Mutalib hosted an “Open House” in conjunction with the Eid al-Fitr celebration. Guests who attended the function were mostly Malaysian expatriates working in Oman, foreign dignitaries, and local businessmen.



ance in a country that has diverse ethnic, religious and linguistic groups. - End -

## ASEAN BOWLING TOURNAMENT 2015

In a showcase of ASEAN spirit and solidarity, the ASEAN Committee in Muscat (ACM) assembled series of teams to compete in the ASEAN Bowling Tournament 2015. All teams comprised of Ambassadors and spouses, staff and community from ASEAN diplomatic missions based in the Sultanate of Oman, namely Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, The Philippines, Thailand and Singapore.

The Tournament was held at the Star Bowling Centre Funzone, Muscat on 30 May 2015. At the end of the competition, winners were awarded with trophies according to VIP, male and female categories. - End -

Eid al-Fitr is celebrated to mark the end of Ramadan which is a holy month in the Islamic Calendar.



The “Open House” concept is unique to Malaysia as it promotes unity and toler-

In Malaysia, a concept

## MALAYSIAN STREET FOOD BAZAAR 2015

On 21 February 2015, the Embassy of Malaysia in Muscat organised the first ever Street Food Bazaar which was held at the Official Residence of Malaysian Ambassador. Among others, those who visited the Bazaar were foreign dignitaries, Malaysi-

an expatriates working in Oman, diplomats, media representatives as



more. Desserts such as *cendol*, *tapai* and *bubur kacang* were also available to the

## EVACUATION OF MALAYSIANS FROM YEMEN

The escalating crisis in Yemen prompted the Government of Malaysia to announce the evacuation of all Malaysians in Yemen. The Embassy of Malaysia in Muscat was part of the exercise which brought together Malaysian diplomatic missions and various agencies in a concerted effort to repatriate Malaysian citizens safely from Yemen.

well as locals.

The Bazaar, which coincided with the celebration of Chinese New Year in Malaysia, featured a collection of Malaysian cuisines and traditional handicrafts.

The Bazaar, which received local media coverage, had fifteen different stalls selling more than 50 varieties of Malaysian cuisines such as *roti canai*, *nasi lemak*, *satay*, *laksa*, *ayam percik* and many



crowd giving them the chance to truly experience the taste and tunes of authentic Malaysian ambience.

Visitors were also introduced to Malaysian traditional handicrafts such as the hand-painted *batik*, *tikar mengkuang*, *sarong*, *bunga telur* and others. - End -

“... TO TRULY EXPERIENCE THE TASTE AND TUNES OF AUTHENTIC MALAYSIAN AMBIENCE”



The Government of Oman had also extended its assistance to facilitate the evacuation of Malaysian citizens through its border. About 454 Malaysians from Hadramawt Province in Yemen were safely evacuated via the Sultanate of Oman on 9 - 18 April 2015. - End -

(More pictures on page 4)

## SATURDAY BRUNCH WITH MALAYSIAN COMMUNITY IN MUSCAT



A casual session with H.E. Umardin Hj Abdul Mutalib, Ambassador of Malaysia was held on 14 March 2015. About 70 Malaysians residing in Oman spent their weekend activities at the Official Residence of the Ambassador. Potluck dishes, which were prepared by Ambassador's wife and others, were served to the guests while ses-

sion was conducted.

Children, with no exception, had the chance to enjoy the session by taking part in a painting contest. While having leisure time, parents were also engaged with their kids in this family activity.

During the programme, OMR 660 was raised as a charity by the Malaysian community in Oman in conjunction with the upcoming Oman Down Syndrome Day on 21 March 2015. The fund was subsequently donated to the Oman Down Syndrome Association. - End -



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*The Embassy of Malaysia in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman was established on 17 February 1983. For the past 32 years, Malaysia and the Sultanate of Oman have enjoyed excellent, cordial and brotherly relations in various aspects. Since then, activities in political, trade, tourism and education have been constructively consolidated bilateral ties between the two countries. The already close and cordial relations between the two countries have also been enhanced by exchanged visits at various levels.*

*In November 2000, the Embassy was manned by three Home Based Staff consisting of Charge d' Affaires, Third Secretary and Personal Assistant to Ambassador as well as supplemented by five Local Recruited Staff. By the end of 2000, the Embassy was upgraded to the Ambassadorial level with H.E. Dato' Mohd Roze Abd Rahman appointed as the first Malaysian Resident Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman. Currently the Embassy is led by H.E. Umardin Hj Abd Mutalib. Other Home Based Staff as follows;*

- A) Ms. Mimi Kaur Ramday (Second Secretary / Head of Chancery)*
- B) Mr. Muhammad Azmi Abdullah (Second Secretary)*
- C) Mr. Shamsul Azmi Aziz (Third Secretary)*
- D) Ms. Norwahidah Yahya (Personal Assistant to Ambassador)*

**SNAPSHOTS**

**EVACUATION OF  
MALAYSIANS FROM  
YEMEN**

*(More on page 3)*