



# HARIMAU WASHINGTON

Embassy of Malaysia in Washington D.C. Newsletter

14 June– 31 December 2015 Edition

## A Word from Our Ambassador



When I first arrived here in Washington D.C. in April 2014, it was at a special time in the history of relations between Malaysia and the United States. President Obama was set to visit Malaysia then, and once again visited Malaysia in November 2015. Relations have been upgraded to comprehensive partnership; engagements, visits and activities involving our leaders, businesses and our two peoples have been on the rise since. The sharing of information on developments in our two countries have become more important than ever.

In light of this, it is my pleasure to unveil *Harimau Washington*, a brand new newsletter of the Embassy of Malaysia in Washington D.C. The goal of this newsletter is simple; to connect, to share and to celebrate. To connect with our friends and stakeholders, to share the embassy's activities and updates, as well as to celebrate the rich and diverse cultures of our two countries and improved bilateral relations.

We chose the name *Harimau* or tiger in English as it is always a special animal in the context of symbolizing strength, fearlessness, willpower and courage, the tiger roams our lush jungles, dominates our national emblem, and emblazon our national soccer squad, the *Harimau Malaya*. I suppose that tiger is hibernating at the moment since the squad is not doing too well this season, but it will wake up with a loud roar soon I'm sure.

I hope our readers will enjoy *Harimau Washington*, a little something to capture glimpses of the various activities, carried out by us at the Embassy.



### In This Issue

- Our team
- MaWashington; What we do
- This half in a glance



The Wisma Putra team and Heads of Division under the Embassy of Malaysia during the Working Visit of YAB DPM

### Our Team

The Embassy of Malaysia in Washington D.C., was set up upon independence in 1957 when Malaysia established its diplomatic relations with the United States of America.

14 Ambassadors have served in this post. The first Ambassador was His Excellency Tun Dr. Ismail Dato' Abdul Rahman while the current Ambassador is His Excellency Datuk Dr. Awang Adek Hussin.

The first Chancery was located at the Universal Building, 1825 Connecticut Avenue N.W. Washington, D.C. The second Chancery at 2401 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. was officiated by Malaysia's first Prime Minister Al-Marhum YTM Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj on 14 October 1969.

The current Chancery building located in Washington's diplomatic enclave, at the cross streets of Van Ness and Reno Road in Northwest D.C., was declared open by former Prime Minister Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad on 15 May 2002.

The architecture of the Chancery building is reminiscent of the early 20th century buildings in Malaysia. It is a juxtaposition of vernacular Malay architecture and imported western, mainly British, architectural elements also known as 'Anglo-Straits' architectural style.

Currently, under the Embassy of Malaysia, there are 34 Home Based Staff from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry, Public Service Department, Education Malaysia, Malaysian Palm Oil Board, Malaysian Rubber Export Promotion Council, Royal Malaysia Police, Majlis Amanah Rakyat (MARA), and the American Palm Oil Council. The officers are assisted by 32 Locally Recruited Staff.

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# MalWashington: What we do



14 - 16 June

Program BEST@Philly in conjunction with Biophilly 2015 in Philadelphia (cooperation between Biotechcorp and Education Malaysia Washington D.C.)



9 July

Briefing on Congress by Mr. Martin Gold



28 June

H.E. Ambassador hosted an iftar for the Malaysian contingent to the World Police and Fire Games 2015, in Fairfax, Virginia



22 June - 9 July

### Islamic Summer Camp

H.E. Ambassador officiated closing ceremony of the Islamic Summer Camp. The camp was attended by children of the Embassy's Home Based Staff with the guidance from two teachers from Maahad Taafiz Pahang, Malaysia.



12 July

Ramadhan Iftar, Tarawikh and Moreh with the students of Vanderbilt University



17 July

### Hari Raya Aidilfitri Celebration

Over 350 people consisting of officers and family members of the Embassy and Malaysian students as well as diaspora from all over the US attended the open house at the Chancery. The celebration was marked with Hari Raya prayers in the morning followed by a specially prepared buffet that included nasi beriyani, roti canai, lodeh, lemang and rendang.





## ASEAN Day 2015

7 August

### What makes ASEAN?

- Brunei
- Cambodia
- Indonesia
- Laos
- Malaysia
- Myanmar
- The Philippines
- Singapore
- Thailand
- Vietnam

The Ambassadors of ASEAN Member States in Washington D.C. co-organized the 48th ASEAN Day reception at the Embassy of Malaysia on 7 August, 2015 at 6.30 pm.

The ASEAN Ambassadors played host to some 400 senior United States Government officials, members of the diplomatic corps, captains of industry, think tank and academic leaders, friends of ASEAN and members of the media. The event was held to help concretize the manifestation of ASEAN 2015 Chairmanship theme, “Our People, Our Community, Our Vision” towards the establishment of the ASEAN Community. It has helped to strengthen understanding between ASEAN and United States, enhance ties amongst members of ASEAN community and promote the awareness of ASEAN to the local community in Washington D.C.

The reception commenced with the playing of ASEAN Anthem, “The ASEAN Way”. In his Opening Remarks, H.E. Datuk Dr. Awang Adek Hussin, Ambassador of Malaysia, highlighted the importance of relations between ASEAN and the United States, the latest developments in ASEAN, and the progress towards the ASEAN Community. This was followed by a statement by the guest of honour, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and the Pacific, the Hon. Ambassador Scott Marciel.

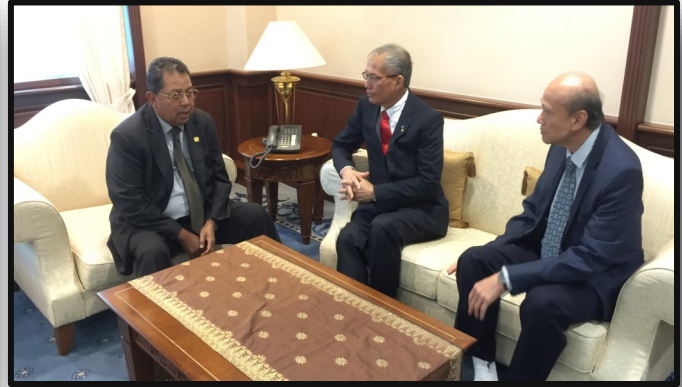
The guests were presented with a medley of cultural performance from all ten ASEAN Member States and, followed by a sumptuous spread of ASEAN traditional authentic cuisines prepared by all 10 ASEAN countries. A row of food stalls decorated with beautiful handicrafts from all 10 ASEAN Member States were set up for the guests to taste the delicacies and enjoy ASEAN hospitality. The traditional food included chicken beriyani, sate lilit, beef rendang, bake pumpkin coconut, bingka susu, larb kai and many more.

Due to time difference, the reception was held in the evening of 7 August to synchronize with the reception hosted in Malaysia on 8 August 2015.



**The International Young Leaders Assembly**  
12 August

A welcoming reception at the Embassy of Malaysia was held for the delegation of the International Young Leaders Assembly (IYLA). The IYLA is a premier partnership-driven leadership development initiative that empowers promising young leaders to positively impact their communities, nations and the world. This year's edition engaged over 800 participants from more than 80 countries in an ambitious leadership programme in Washington D.C., Philadelphia, and New York City.



**Working Visit of YB Minister of Human Resources and the delegation from National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)**  
9-10 August

The Embassy of Malaysia had the pleasure to welcome YB Dato' Sri Richard Riot Anak Jaem, the Minister of Human Resources, YBhg. Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye, Chairman of National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and delegation. The delegation was in the United States to visit the US NIOSH facilities and to discuss with its officials in Cincinnati, Ohio.



**Programme With Students, American University**  
4 August

H.E. Ambassador's talk with the members of the Youth Leadership Programme organized by National Student Leadership Conference (NSLC) at the American University.

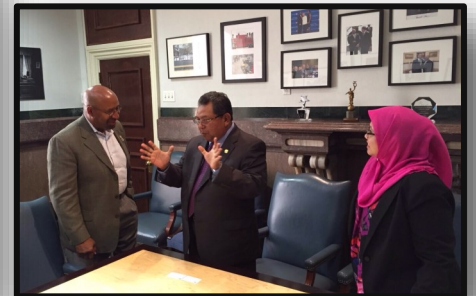
The members consists of selected group of outstanding high school students to participate in its fast-paced, high-level, interactive summer sessions.



**Visit of American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL)**  
17 August

The American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) program focuses on international educational exchanges for young political leaders worldwide. The program provides in-depth exploration of the governance, politics, policy making, bilateral relations, culture, and geographic diversity of the host country.

The session was organized for the ACYPL participants to exchange views on bilateral relations between Malaysia and the US, trade relations as well as ongoing domestic issues in both countries.



**Meeting with the Mayor of Philadelphia**  
18 August

H.E. Ambassador paid a call on Mr. Michael Nutter, the Mayor of Philadelphia.

H.E Ambassador also undertook a visit to Temple University for a programme with Malaysian students.



**Programme at Salt Lake City, Utah and Chicago, Illinois**  
1-3 September



H.E. Ambassador undertook a visit to Salt Lake City, Utah at the invitation of the Brigham Young University. During the visit, H.E. Ambassador gave a lecture entitled "The Malaysian Economy and the ASEAN Economic Community" to Political Science and International Relations students at the David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies, Brigham Young University. Subsequently, H.E. Ambassador met with Mr. Kevin J Worthen, President of Brigham Young University, and Dr. Sandra Rogers, International Vice President. H.E. Ambassador also had a discussion over dinner with members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at the Joseph Smith Memorial Building (Ambassador Room), followed by a performance by the International Children's Choir. Subsequently, H.E. Ambassador visited the LDS Humanitarian Center and Welfare Square. This was followed by a meeting with Hon. Gary R. Herbert, Governor for the State of Utah.

H.E. Ambassador then flew to Chicago to attend the Malaysian Young Leaders Summit. More than 100 students all over the US participated in the Young Leaders Summit.



**Farewell Dear Friends**  
17 September

The Embassy of Malaysia bid farewell to four of its Officers and Staff who completed their tour of duty in Washington D.C. They are Ssjn. Abdul Samas Mat Nasir from Ministry of Defense, Ms. Wanida Lourdesamy from Wisma Putra, Ms. Nur Aisyah Mohamad from MARA and Mr. Jumaat Sulaiman, our beloved LRS whom have dedicated 27 years of his life serving the Embassy.



**Working Visit of YB Minister of Women, Family and Community Development**

11-13 September

From 11 to 13 September 2015, the Embassy of Malaysia welcomed YB Dato' Sri Hajah Rohani Binti Abdul Karim, Minister of Women, Family and Community Development who was in Washington, D.C. to officiate the Young Women Professional Conference.



**Minister of Foreign Affairs Malaysia Gracing the National Day and Armed Forces Day Reception**  
22 September

**Malaysian Loud and Proud...**

The Embassy of Malaysia in Washington D.C. was honoured to have had our Minister of Foreign Affairs, YB Dato' Sri Anifah Haji Aman, join us as we hosted the National Day and Armed Forces Day reception on 22 September 2015. Other Guests of Honour were the Honourable Daniel Russel, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs as well as Major General Lawrence Martin of the US Air Force.



## Working Visit of YAB Deputy Prime Minister

7-13 October

YAB Dato' Seri Dr. Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia undertook a Working Visit to Washington D.C. from 7 to 13 October 2015. YAB had a packed and fruitful visit which included the signing of the Homeland Security Presidential Directive Six (HSPD-6) as part of the Visa Waiver Programme with the Honourable John Kerry, U.S Secretary of State, meetings with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Department of Homeland Security, think tanks, business leaders, Malaysian Diaspora and Students.



### What we did?

- 15 minute warm-up session
- 1 mile fun walk
- 45 minute Zumba

## Hari Sukan Negara 2015

10 October

In line with the call of the Nation for a more fit and active Malaysia, the Embassy of Malaysia held its Hari Sukan Negara 2015 in full force and happy spirits.

Held within the compounds of the Official Residence of the Ambassador of Malaysia and Rock Creek Park, more than 60 participants participated in a warm-up session, fun walk and Zumba session .

What made it more special was the event was graced by YAB Dato' Seri Dr. Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, Deputy Prime Minister and spouse, YABhg. Datin Seri Hamidah Khamis.

Subsequently, everyone was treated to a luncheon at the Embassy.



Islamic Capital Market Conference

## Islamic Capital Market Conference

22 October

The Embassy of Malaysia played host to the Islamic Capital Market Conference. H.E. Ambassador delivered the Keynote Address. The conference brought together Fund Managers (Pension Funds, Hedge Funds, Mutual Funds and Insurance), Investment Bankers, Infrastructure Companies, and Corporate Executives so that they would consider alternative opportunities for increasing financial growth and investments in the United States through Islamic Capital Markets.

The Conference presented the value proposition of Islamic Capital market from the perspective of cross-border linkages, capital raising, financial structures, accreditation and landmark issues that are changing the global landscape. ASEAN and American Business leaders alike converged, discussed and negotiated ways to build on each other's strengths and needs.



"Malaysia as 2015 ASEAN Chair: Our People, Our Community, Our Vision".

## Dialogue Symposium of "Malaysia as 2015 ASEAN Chair: Our People, Our Community, Our Vision"

22 October

The Embassy of Malaysia participated in the 5th United States, and East Asia Summit Strategic Dialogue Symposium titled "Malaysia as 2015 ASEAN Chair: Our People, Our Community, Our Vision" at the American University, Washington D.C.

This ASEAN Studies Initiative was organized with the support from the Department of State and the Asia Foundation. It saw participation of over 20 speakers including 5 from Malaysia. The opening remarks was given by the Embassy's Deputy Chief of Mission, Mr. Shaiful Anuar Mohammad and one of the panelists for ASEAN Economic Community discussion was Mr. Hairil Yahri Yaacob, Minister Counselor (Economic).



## United Nations Day

23 October

The Embassy of Malaysia participated in the United Nations Day celebration at the Oneness Family School in Washington D.C, joining more than 60 other Embassies making it the biggest United Nations Day celebration in Washington D.C.

The celebration is an annual affair of the school, inculcating awareness for peace, awareness and tolerance among students regardless of race, creed, and religion.



## Training for Locally Recruited Staff (LRS)

19 November

Our LRS have been the backbone of our day to day operations. To ensure that they continue to be motivated, well equipped with necessary knowledge and overall, happy to continue working with us, a training session was held.

The objectives of the session were to expose LRS to the *Sistem Pentadbiran Kerajaan Malaysia* (SPKM) and to cultivate teamwork among the LRS from all agencies under the Embassy, as well as to enhance work related competencies of the LRS by sharing of knowledge.



## 1SPLN Training

23-27 November

A 1SPLN "Training of Trainers" (TOT) course was held from 23 to 27 November 2015. It was led by the Director of Consultation Services Division of Accountant General's Department with the aid of 6 other trainers. The purpose of the course is to enhance and upgrade the present SPLN accounting system.

23 officers from Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Washington D.C., Los Angeles, New York (CG and UN), Vancouver and Ottawa as well as officers from the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Agriculture, Public Service Department, Royal Malaysian Police, and Education Office attended the course.



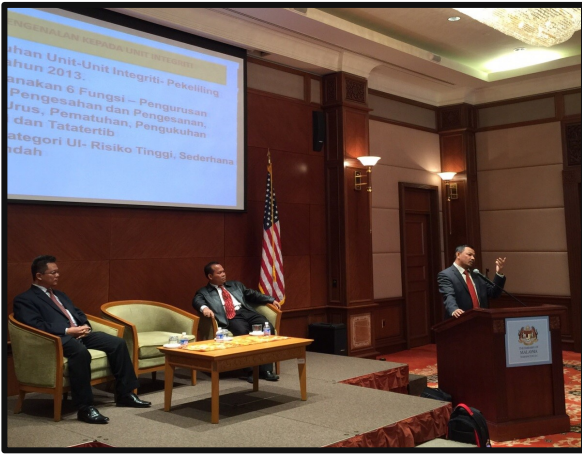
## Farewell for Brig Gen Dato' Jaafar

30 November

The Embassy of Malaysia organized a luncheon to bid farewell to its Defence Attaché, Brig. Gen. Dato' Jaafar Kassim.

Brig. Gen. Dato' Jaafar assumed post on 26 June 2012 and returned home to Malaysia on 9 December 2015.

We at the Embassy of Malaysia would like to express our sincere appreciation to Dato' Jaafar and family for the dedication and commitment.



**Talk by Officials of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)**  
13 November

The Embassy of Malaysia had the opportunity to welcome Mr. Mohamad Fauzi Husin, Mr. Mohamad Zakuan Talib and Mr. Khairul Azidi Yahidin from the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

The delegation that was on a working visit to Washington D.C., gave a talk on the importance of maintaining integrity and professionalism amongst Government officers.



**Moderation (Wasatiyah Talk)**  
14 November

YBhg. Tan Sri Dr. Hj. Abdullah Md Zin, Special Advisor of the Prime Minister on Islamic Affairs led a delegation from Institute of Wasatiyah Malaysia to meet with Malaysian students.

A panel discussion on moderation (wasatiyah) was held at Homewood Suites, Falls Church. The discussion that was led by YBhg. Tan Sri Dr. focused on the importance of preserving a moderate demeanor in action, in speech and in life in the midst of the rise of extreme and radical islam.



**Year-End Buffet Luncheon and Farewell for Tuan Haji Zainal**  
22 December

The Year-End Buffet Luncheon was graciously hosted by H.E Ambassador in celebrating and thanking the officers, spouses and staff of the Embassy for all the hardwork and dedication shown throughout 2015. It was a bittersweet programme as the Embassy had to also bid farewell to its First Secretary (Admin & Finance), Tuan Haji Zainal Zainuddin and family who will be returning home to Malaysia.



**MISG Muktamar Baltimore 2015**  
24 - 28 December

The Embassy of Malaysia in Washington D.C. is proud to be one of the main sponsors of the Malaysian Islamic Student Group (MISG) for its activities throughout 2015. MISG being an important body promoting moderation in Islam in the U.S, together with the Indonesian Muslim Students in America (IMSA) has co-organized, the Muktamar Baltimore with the theme "Being Muslim in times of Uncertainty".

Historically, this convention was first hosted in 1976. Since then, it has attracted over several hundred participants each year. The programs in the convention have directly impacted da'wah activities in North America and have broadened the Islamic horizons of Indonesian and Malaysian students as well as Muslim community members.

## This year in a glance..

### June

**14 – 16 June**

Program BEST@Philly in conjunction with Biophilly 2015 in Philadelphia

**28 June**

Iftar for the Malaysian contingent to the World Police and Fire Games 2015, in Fairfax Virginia

**22 June—9 July**

Islamic Summer Camp with students of Maahad Tahfiz Pahang

### July

**9 July**

Presentation on Congress by Senator Martin Gold

**12 July**

Ramadhan Iftar, Tarawikh and Moreh with the students of Vanderbilt University

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Embassy Hari Raya Aidilfitri Celebration

### August

**4 August**

Programme with students of American University

**7 August**

ASEAN Day Celebration

**9-10 August**

Working Visit of YB Minister of Human Resources and the delegation from National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)

**12 August**

Welcoming reception for the International Young Leaders Assembly

**17 August**

American Council Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) Session

**18 August**

Programme with students of Temple University, Philadelphia

## This Half in A Glance...

### September

**1-3 September**

Student Programme, Salt Lake City

**4-6 September**

Malaysian Young Leader's Summit, Chicago, IL

**11-13 September**

Working Visit of YB Minister of Women, Family and Community Development

**18 September**

Farewell of Officers and Staff leaving the Embassy

### October

**7-13 October**

Working Visit of YAB Deputy Prime Minister to Washington

**10 October**

Hari Sukan Negara 2015

**22 October**

Islamic Capital Market Conference & Dialogue Symposium of "Malaysia as 2015 ASEAN Chair: Our People, Our Community, Our Vision"

### November

**13 November**

Talk by Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission

**19 November**

Training for Locally Recruited Staff (LRS)

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1SPLN Training

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Farewell for Brig Gen Dato' Jaafar

### December

**22 December**

Year End Buffet Luncheon and Farewell for Tuan Haji Zainal

**24-28 December**

MISG Muktamar Baltimore 2015

And that's a wrap!