



NEWSLETTER OF THE EMBASSY OF MALAYSIA IN ASTANA, KAZAKHSTAN



KHABAR ASTANA

IN THIS ISSUE

From The Ambassador's Desk



Assalamualaikum

Welcome to the inaugural edition of "KHABAR ASTANA", the official e-newsletter of the Embassy of Malaysia in Astana, Kazakhstan. Incidentally, "khabar" in the Kazakh language also means news, just like in Bahasa Melayu. Indeed Malaysia and Kazakhstan share many similarities in religion, tradition & culture and way of life. That is why a Kazakh could easily get along with a Malaysian even after a short acquaintance.

The large number of Kazakh students at Malaysian universities justify to the fact that Kazakhs find Malaysia not just affordable but comfortable to live in. They are often joined by relatives, family and friends to sojourn at the many beautiful places in Malaysia, after stories of how wonderful they are, made its way from mouth-to-mouth and the new media.

Education and Tourism are the two main pinnacles of Malaysia-Kazakhstan bilateral relation. The warm and friendly relations we enjoyed over the years have grown over a wide spectrum of activities.

Read more on Malaysia-Kazakhstan ties at <http://astanatimes.com/2016/09/malaysian-envoy-optimistic-about-future-of-bilateral-ties-kazakhstans-economy/>

The Embassy of Malaysia in Kazakhstan was first established in December 1996 in Almaty. In May 2011, the Embassy moved to the new capital Astana.

Today, the Embassy of Malaysia stands proud in the diplomatic enclave at 26, Sarayshyk Street, just a block away from the Kazakhstan Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We will be sharing with you some of the activities of the Embassy in this e-newsletter. We hope that you will find it informative and beneficial.

Dato' Hidayat Abdul Hamid
AMBASSADOR

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Attorney General, Tan Sri Mohamed Apandi Ali's Visit to Astana

ASTANA, 24 May 2016: Attorney General of Malaysia, Tan Sri Mohamed Apandi bin Ali visited Astana from 24 to 28 May for negotiations on "Treaty on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters" and "Treaty on Extradition between the Government of Malaysia and the Government of Kazakhstan". During the visit, he met with Prosecutor General of the Republic of Kazakhstan Mr. Zhakip Assanov. Both parties discussed a wide range of issues of mutual interest and exchanged views on topical issues of international agenda. Both sides acknowledged on the friendly and constructive nature of our bilateral relations in the legal sphere.

Mr. Zhakip Assanov briefed the Malaysian side on the main activities of Kazakhstan's Prosecutor General authorities, as well as on expanding and strengthening of contractual-legal base. Both sides also emphasized the relevance of joint efforts on countering terrorism, ensuring national and international security and potential areas of bilateral legal cooperation.

Negotiations of the treaties on extradition and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters proceeded smoothly during the visit.



The delegation from Attorney General Chamber Malaysia, led by Tan Sri Mohamed Apandi Ali together with officials from the Embassy of Malaysia at Rumah Malaysia.

At the end of the meeting, both parties signed a Memorandum of Mutual Understanding between the Attorney General's Office of Malaysia and Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Kazakhstan.



Courtesy Call on New Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

ASTANA, 7 June 2016: Ambassador of Malaysia, Dato' Hidayat Abdul Hamid made a courtesy call and congratulated Mr. Akylbek Kamaldinov on his appointment as the new Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs in charge of Asian & African Affairs. Both sides commended on the excellent state of Malaysia-Kazakhstan bilateral relations and discussed ways to further enhance cooperation in all spheres. Mr. Kamaldinov was appointed as new Deputy Foreign Minister on 4 March 2016.



Kazakhstan Elected as Non-Permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council

Kazakhstan was elected to the United Nations Security Council as a non-permanent member joining Sweden, Ethiopia and Bolivia for a two-year term beginning on January 1st 2017. Kazakhstan becomes the first ever Central Asian country to be elected to the Security Council.

EXPO 2017: 2nd International Participant's Meeting

ASTANA, 24 February 2016: Malaysian delegation led by Datuk Loo Took Gee, Secretary General of the Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water (KSU KeTTHA), attended the two-days International Participants Meeting (IPM) held in Astana from 24 to 25 February 2016.

The meeting was held to update on preparation and progress of the ASTANA EXPO 2017.

Malaysia's confirmation of its participation in ASTANA EXPO 2017 was signed on 25 February 2016. A special signing ceremony was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs between Datuk Loo Took Gee, KSU KeTTHA as Malaysia Commissioner and H.E. Rapol Zhoshybayev, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs as Kazakhstan Commissioner to the EXPO 2017.



Signing ceremony of Malaysia's participation to the EXPO 2017 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs



EXPO 2017: Future Energy

Astana was chosen by the Bureau of International Exhibition (BIE) as the venue to host Expo 2017. It will be the first time that a major international exhibition of this kind is coming to a country from the former Soviet Union. More than 100 countries and 10 international organizations are expected to participate. Around 2-3 million people are expected to visit the international pavilions from June to September 2017. 25 hectares is planned for the pavilions of Expo 2017. The site has a convenient access to Astana's city center, the international airport and the railway station. The Expo Site is also linked with a network of Kazakhstan's inter-city roads to ensure a quick access from all the country.

The theme chosen for the Expo 2017 is "Future Energy". The theme is aimed to concentrate on the future of energy, as well as innovative and practical energy solutions and their impacts.

Approximately 70% of Kazakhstan's population is Muslim. The majority are Sunni of the Hanafi school, including ethnic Kazakhs, who constitute about 60% the population, as well as ethnic Uzbeks, Uighurs, and Tatars. Less than 1% are part of the Sunni Shafie school (primarily Chechens).

The southern region of the country has the highest concentration of Muslims. There are 2,300 mosques, all affiliated with the "Spiritual Association of Muslims of Kazakhstan", headed by a Supreme Mufti. The Eid al-Adha is a national holiday in Kazakhstan.

DID YOU KNOW?



MTDC-MTCP Technology Commercialisation Ecosystem Workshop



50 Kazakhstan participants attended this workshop comprising middle level government officials, leaders of chambers of entrepreneurs, heads of public universities and research institutes that focuses on commercialization/technology/ innovation/ entrepreneurship/ SME Development and on areas such as funding, technology & development incubation.

At the opening ceremony of the workshop, an MoU signing between MTDC and Nazarbayev University Research and Innovation System (NURIS) was executed by Dato' Norhalim Yunus, CEO of MTDC and Mr. Aidar Zhakupov, Director General of NURIS and witnessed by Ambassador of Malaysia to Kazakhstan, Dato' Hidayat Abdul Hamid and the Interim Provost of NU, Ms. Anne Lonsdale.

This workshop provided an excellent platform for Kazakhstan policy-makers, practitioners, academia, and entrepreneurs to come together and discuss issues on commercialisation and its ecosystem, as well as initiate potential collaborations to accelerate transfer of technology, development of new technology companies and technology commercialisation in the country.

ASTANA, 22 February 2016: The 4-day workshop was organized by the Malaysian Technology Development Corporation (MTDC) in collaboration with Nazarbayev University (NU) in Astana, Kazakhstan. It was a continuation to the workshop for Kazakhstan policymakers held in Kuala Lumpur in April 2015.

The workshop was conducted by speakers from Malaysian Technology Development Corporation (MTDC), senior government officials, successful technopreneurs from Malaysia together with speakers from Kazakhstan.

In and Around..



Astana Economic Forum (AEF)

Malaysian Embassy officials participated in the Astana Economic Forum (AEF) held at the Palace of Independence from 24-25 May 2016.



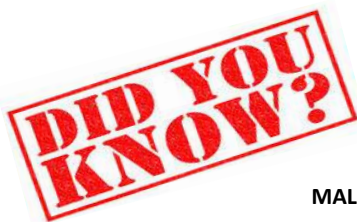
Visit by Chairman of SPR

Chairman of SPR Datuk Seri Hashim visited Astana from 18-21 March 2016 to observe Kazakhstan Parliamentary Elections. A Dinner in honor of the visit was hosted by the Ambassador at Rumah Malaysia.



International Women's Day in Kazakhstan

Women's Day in Kazakhstan is celebrated on 8 March. PERWAKILAN paid special tribute to the ladies of the Embassy of Malaysia with a Luncheon.



MALAYSIAN TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME (MTCP)

In line with the spirit of South-South Cooperation, Malaysia through the MTCP shares its development experiences and expertise with other developing countries. The MTCP was first formulated based on the belief that the development of a country depends on the quality of its human resources.

The program forms part of the commitment of the Malaysian Government towards the promotion of technical cooperation among developing countries, strengthening of regional and sub-regional cooperation, as well as nurturing collective self-reliance among developing countries.

Working Luncheon : Head of Missions of the Asian, African & Latin American Embassies



ASTANA, 18 May 2016: Ambassador of Malaysia, H.E. Dato' Hidayat Abdul Hamid hosted a luncheon for the Heads of Missions of Asian, African & Latin America at the Marriot Hotel. Also present during the luncheon Ms. Baljeet Kaur Grewal, Managing Director for Strategy and Portfolio Investment of Samruk-Kazyna who gave a briefing to the ambassadors on Samruk Kazyna's Privatisation plans .

The luncheon is a monthly event organized on a rotating basis by the Heads of Missions of Asian, African & Latin America. It serves as an informal platform to strengthen relationships between the Heads of Missions in Astana, to discuss and share views on the current developments and issues of bilateral cooperation between diplomatic Missions and host country.

The 16th Kazakhstan International Tourism Fair (KITF)

ALMATY, 20 April 2016: Tourism Malaysia's press conference was held as kick-off function of Kazakhstan's International Tourism Fair (KITF) at the Malaysia's pavilion. 15 journalists attended the conference which was led by Ambassador of Malaysia to Republic of Kazakhstan, Dato' Hidayat Abdul Hamid. The event was officiated after the ribbon cutting ceremony.

TM had organized Proboscis monkey contest for 2 days during KITF 2016. Participants of the contest should take a photo together with Proboscis Monkey near to KLCC Twin Tower and upload the photo on Tourism Malaysia Almaty official Facebook. The participants that get the most "likes" will be given a prize by TM Almaty.

MHTC provided free basic medical check-up by local doctor (BP measurement and BMI). They also had "MY Loves You Contest" video competition. It was a YouTube competition where a 30-second video should be taken and then uploaded in Youtube and the link should be send to www.mylovesyou.com.my. The winner will win a trip 5 Days and 4 Nights to Malaysia for 2 persons with a health checkup

A Malaysia Evening Reception was held later during the day at the Zhety Kazyna Restaurant. The special reception was attended by 60 trade guests and tourism industry partners, among them 15 from the media.



Kazakhstan-Malaysia Oil & Gas Business Forum

Almaty, 4 April 2016 : Hadid Engineering (M) Sdn Bhd. was recently selected by MATRADE to carry out a series of fact-finding exercises to compile information and prepare a comprehensive report on Kazakhstan Oil & Gas industry. This program was funded by the Malaysian Government under the Fund for Feasibility Studies (FFS), managed by MATRADE. It is part of the government's effort to assist Malaysian Service Providers (MSPs) to expand their business abroad.

The study in Kazakhstan was a joint collaboration between Hadid Engineering (M) Sdn Bhd. and Deloitte TCF LLP Kazakhstan as consultants. The final report will provide a working framework and serves as a reference guide for Malaysian Oil & Gas services companies wishing to venture into Kazakhstan. The report findings will be particularly valuable to gain a clearer insight into the technical and local peculiarities involved in the Oil & Gas industry, specific to the Republic of Kazakhstan and the surrounding the Caspian Sea region.

In the final round of study report preparation, Hadid Engineering (M) Sdn Bhd. and MATRADE Almaty organised a 2-day workshop in Almaty from 4-5 April 2016, with the participation of Malaysian and Kazakh Oil & Gas Services companies and consultants. The main intention of the program was to discuss and share preliminary findings of the study and at the same time identify capable Malaysian companies who are interested to venture into Kazakhstan.

At the end of the workshop, a MoU between Hadid Engineering (M) Sdn.Bhd and Kazservice Kazakhstan was signed.



KazService is an association of subsoil users in Kazakhstan which comprises more than 120 suppliers, both domestic and foreign, from Holland, Norway, Germany and other countries.

The association's annual turnover of service work package in Kazakhstan Oil & Gas sector is about \$10-12 billion. The share of Kazakhstan companies in engineering is 50%, logistics - 18%, construction – 58% and maintenance - more than 80%.

Kazservice was established to increase the participation of local companies in the Oil & Gas Industry.

DID YOU KNOW?

Kazakhstan ranked 2nd among the CIS countries after Russia and 12th.globally in proven oil reserves with 30 billion barrels locked underground.

Kazakhstan's 3 largest fields are Tengiz, Karachaganak and Kashagan.

Kazakhstan produced 1.7 million barrels per day



Participants of Kazakhstan-Malaysia Oil & Gas Business Forum held at the Embassy of Malaysia in Almaty on 4-5 April 2015.

Malaysia My Second Home (MM2H)



The Malaysia My Second Home program (commonly abbreviated "MM2H") is an international residency scheme enacted by the Government of Malaysia to allow foreigners to live in the country on a long-stay visa of up to 10 years. To qualify for the program, applicants must meet certain financial and medical criteria. Successful applicants are then entitled to enter and leave the country on a largely unrestricted basis, and also benefit from other incentives aimed at making their stay in Malaysia more convenient. Certain restrictions may apply.

The program is open to all citizens of countries recognised by Malaysia regardless of race, religion, gender or age. Applicants are allowed to bring along their spouse and unmarried children below 21 years old. Application can be made via any of the following channels.

Authorised Sponsor Companies

Application can be made through a number of private Malaysian companies, known as "sponsors", which offer application and follow-up services to foreigners. While the fees charged and services rendered can vary drastically from one sponsor to another, only authorised companies licensed by the Ministry of Tourism can provide such services to MM2H participants.

Personal Application

As from January 2009 the Malaysian government will allow individual applications. Applicants no longer need to use Agents, or any 3rd parties.

Applications for those wishing to reside in Peninsula Malaysia are accepted at the MM2H One-Stop centre in Kuala Lumpur. Where the applicant wishes to reside in the states of Sabah or Sarawak, applications need to be sent to the respective Immigration offices or MM2H One-Stop centres in either of these states.



MM2H Programme

If you are interested to know more information on the MM2H programme you can browse its official page at <http://www.mm2h.gov.my>, and also contact Tourism Malaysia office in Almaty at the following:

Marketing Executive
Ms. Aziza Chaldanbayeva
Phone: +7 7272 32 14 30
Email: aziza@tourism.gov.my

Applying for Malaysia Visa

Applying for Malaysia Visa

Holders of Kazakhstan passports do not require a visa to enter Malaysia for tourism purpose for a stay of up to one (1) month, provided your passport is valid for more than six (6) months upon arrival. For other nationalities, the information on visa requirement can be found at www.imi.gov.my.

Visa Applications can be submitted to:

Embassy of Malaysia
26 Sarayshyk Street,
010000 Astana
Republic of Kazakhstan
Tel. No. : +7 (7172) 790 690
Fax : +7 (7172) 790 692
Email : mwastana.kln@1govuc.gov.my / membassy@gmail.com
Consular Section:
Monday to Friday
11.00 - 13.00
14.00 - 16.00

****Office is closed on Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays**



Application for Malaysian visa in Kazakhstan can be made only at the Embassy of Malaysia in Astana

Upcoming Public Holidays

| Holiday | Date |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Eid-ul Fitri * | 06 - 07 July |
| Malaysia National Day | 31 August |
| Eid-ul Adha * | 12 September |
| Malaysia Day | 16 September |
| Awal Muharram | 02 October |
| Deepavali ** | 29 October |
| First President Day | 01 December |
| Birthday of Prophet Muhammad(PBUH) | 12 December |
| Kazakhstan Independence Day | 16 December |
| Christmas Day ** | 25 December |

**Date subject to change*
Note : Should a public holiday falls on a weekend, it shall be observed on the succeeding working day;



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From left to right: Ambassador of Malaysia, Dato' Hidayat Abdul Hamid, Pn. Farah Fazarina (Second Secretary), Pn. Noor Atika (Third Secretary) and Pn. Suryati Tampit (PA to the Ambassador)