



e-newsletter

Embassy of Malaysia, Brasília

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Happenings...

AMBASSADOR ATTENDED IFTAR HOSTED BY INTERIM PRESIDENT TEMER



The Acting President of Brazil, Michel Temer, hosted Iftar for all Heads of Mission of OIC countries at his official residence on 23 June 2016. Also present were FM Jose Serra and senior officials of the MFA (Itamaraty).

Brazil underlies its deep ties of friendship and cooperation with Islamic countries. The country would continue to enhance the ties as well as support the causes of Islamic countries at the bilateral, regional and international spheres.

For Brazil, Islam is a religion of peace, love and tolerance. Interim President Temer said that the Iftar for OIC HDMs in Brasilia would be a regular event in the future.

MALAYSIA CHAIRS ASEAN COMMITTEE IN BRASÍLIA (ACB)



Indonesian Ambassador to Brazil, H.E. Toto Riyanto handed over the Chairmanship of the ASEAN Committee in Brasilia (ACB) to Ambassador Datuk Rahimi Harun during the ACB Meeting on 27 June 2016 at the former's Official Residence. Malaysia's chairmanship will be from 1 July until 31 December 2016.

The ACB was established in February 2013 to further strengthen the ASEAN-Brazil relations and promote the interest, awareness and understanding of ASEAN in Brazil. ACB comprises the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. The ACB Chairmanship rotates every 6 months.

WORKING VISIT OF DEPUTY AUDITOR GENERAL (STATE) OF MALAYSIA TO BRASÍLIA



YBhg. Dato' Mustafa Haji Saman, Deputy Auditor General (State) of Malaysia attended the 25th Meeting of the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) Working Group on IT Audit on 26-27 April 2016 in Brasilia.

While in Brasilia, he made a courtesy call on Ambassador Datuk Rahimi.

VISIT OF THE MALAYSIAN RUBBER GLOVES MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION (MARGMA)

A delegation from MARGMA made a working visit to Brazil on 12-17 May 2016. The 10-member delegation was headed by Ms. Low Yoke Kew, CEO of MREPC. The purpose of the visit was to discuss and resolve issues facing Malaysian exporters of rubber gloves to Brazil. The delegation had discussions with the National Institute of Meteorological, Quality and Technology (INMETRD) in Rio de Janeiro and the Brazilian Health Surveillance Agency (ANVISA) in Brasilia.



MEETING WITH ANVISA



Ambassador Datuk Rahimi met with representatives of the Brazilian Health Surveillance Agency (ANVISA) in May to discuss issues regarding the export of Malaysian rubber gloves to Brazil in preparation of the visit by MARGMA delegation.

CELEBRITY CHEF WAN IN SÃO PAULO



Datuk Chef Wan, Food Tourism Ambassador for Ministry Tourism of Malaysia visited MATRADE São Paulo as part of his food & culture promotion programme in Latin America.

TRADE COMMISSIONER HELD A MEETING WITH FIESP



Malaysian Trade Commissioner to Brazil, Mr. Choong Wan Sern, held a meeting with the Federation of Industries of the State of Sao Paulo (FIESP), an influential organization representing 133 business associations in Brazil on 17 February 2016. The meeting was to rejuvenate commercial relations between Malaysia and Brazil. Both MATRADE & FIESP agreed that effort can be taken to create better synergies between Malaysian and Brazilian business communities.

COURTESY CALL ON AMBASSADOR BY THE DELEGATION FROM MARGMA



Ambassador Datuk Rahim Harun received a delegation from the MARGMA on 16 May 2016. The delegation was headed by Ms. Low Yoke Kew, CEO of MREPC.

During the call, Ambassador Rahimi informed the delegation on the works of the Embassy, Malaysia-Brazil relations and current political and economic situations in Brazil.



COURTESY CALL BY HER EXCELLENCY LAURA DONOSO, AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE OF ECUADOR TO MALAYSIA



Ms. Laura Donoso, Ambassador-designate of Ecuador to Malaysia, made a courtesy call on Ambassador Datuk Rahimi on 1 June 2016.

The purpose of the visit was to inform Ambassador Datuk Rahimi of her next assignment as Ambassador of Ecuador to Malaysia later this year and to get information on Malaysia.

MATRADE SÃO PAULO ORGANISED "MEET WITH A BUYER" AT FEICON FAIR



MATRADE São Paulo organized a "meeting with a buyer" during the FEICON BATIMAT construction industry fair in São Paulo. This annually event attracts industry professionals particularly architects, engineers, building material importers, wholesalers and retailers

The fair is an option for launching new products and solutions for building material and construction industry in Brazil. Products presented in the fair cover different segments like Masonry and Covering, Electric equipment, Devices, Conductors, Wires, Cables, Accessories and Furniture for Bathroom and Kitchen, Casings, Iron Fittings and Glasswork, Electric, Hydraulically and Sanitary Installations, Sanitary Wares and Metals, Projects and Services, Wall Ceramic, Floor and Ceilings, Paints and Varnishes.

MEETING WITH ABIARB



Mr. Choon Wan Sern, Malaysian Trade Commissioner to Brazil, met with the President & the Executive Director of Brazilian Association of Rubber Goods Industry Association (ABIARB) to discuss the local rubber goods industry in Brazil. ABIARB is an important player in the national industry which has registered an expressive sales annual revenue of R\$7.1 billion. The Association is open for collaboration with Malaysia.

MEETING WITH SUZANO PAPEL E CELULOSE



Mr. Choong Wan Sern had a meeting with Suzano Papel e Celulose, a Brazilian Forestry company at MATRADE's office in São Paulo. The Company's core business includes Pulp, Paper and Biotechnology, operating in over 60 countries. The Company has plans to expand into China and other countries, developing investment into the region. At the meeting, Mr Choong briefed the representatives on Malaysian economy, including the support and facilities for investing.



MALAWAKIL BRASILIA PARTICIPATED IN SITE VISIT TO RIO DE JANEIRO BY TAN SRI MOHAMED AL AMIN, CHEF DE MISSION FOR RIO 2016, 1-5 MARCH 2016



Brazil Updates...

TEMER TAKES OVER BRAZIL'S LEADERSHIP



On 12 May 2016, the Brazilian Senate voted in favour of opening an impeachment trial against President Dilma. Following this decision, President Dilma was suspended for 180 days to face the impeachment trial. At the end of the trial, the Senate will vote whether or not to impeach President Dilma. The Senate must secure a two-third majority (54 of 81 votes) to remove President Dilma permanently.

During the suspension period of President Dilma, Vice President Michel Temer has assumed the role of Interim President of Brazil with immediate effect. If the Senate finds President Dilma guilty, Temer would continue to be the President until 2018 (i.e. the next presidential elections). President Dilma's impeachment is the first in 13 years of ruling by the PT (Workers Party). Being the first woman president of Brazil, she now holds the record as the first woman president of Brazil to be impeached.

BRAZIL'S FDI DECLINED IN 2015

According to the UNCTAD-United Nations Conference on Trade & Development on FDI-Foreign Direct Investment in 2015, Brazil's FDI declined by -11.5% to USD65 billion (8th rank in 2015) and surpassed by the US, Hong Kong, China Ireland, The Netherlands, Switzerland and Singapore. Brazil was 4th rank in 2014 with USD73 billion in FDI.

OVERSEAS SPENDING BY BRAZILIANS DECLINED

Between January and May 2016, Brazilian tourists spent USD5.2 billion compared to USD8.3 billion in the same period in 2015 (a reduction of 37.3%). There was a "blip" in March of USD1.291 billion. In January-May 2016, foreign tourists spend USD2.8 billion in Brazil.

FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI)

As of May 2016, Foreign Direct Investment totaled USD6.1 billion. The 12-month accumulation is now USD79.4 billion (4.57% of GDP). The Central Bank now estimates that in 2016 Brazil should receive USD70 billion in FDI.

BRAZIL'S UNEMPLOYMENT SOARS

Brazil's unemployment rate increased between March and May, while wages continued to decline, as the country faces a deep and prolonged recession. Joblessness rose to 11.2% from 10.2% in the previous three-month period and 8.1% compared with a year earlier. Average monthly wages fell to 1,982 Brazilian reais (USD582), adjusted for inflation, from 2,037 reais in the year-earlier period. After contracting 3.8% last year, Brazil's economy is expected to shrink 3.44% this year.

NEW IMPEACHMENT SCHEDULE



The Senate Special Impeachment Committee elaborated a new chronology for the impeachment of President Dilma Rousseff.

The calendar was extended by an extra week

- * **27 June:** Senate staff Analysts deliver analysis of Dilma's fiscal accounts
- * **28 June:** Questioning of analysis (72 hours)
- * **6 Jul.:** Dilma speaks on her own defense
- * **7-12 Jul.:** Final anti-Dilma arguments
- * **13-27 Jul.:** Final pro-Dilma arguments
- * **28 Jul.-1 Aug.:** Sen. Antonio Anastasia elaborates his report
- * **2 Aug.:** Sen. Anastasia reads his report
- * **3 Aug.:** Committee discusses the report
- * **4 Aug.:** Committee votes on report
- * **5 Aug.:** The Report is read to the full Senate
- * **9 Aug.:** Full Senate - Discussion and vote on the Report
- * **10-11 Aug.:** 48 hours, anti-Dilma arguments
- * **12-13 Aug.:** 48 hours, pro-Dilma arguments
- * **13-21 Aug.:** 10-day interval
- * **22 Aug.:** Final impeachment vote, 2/3 or 54 Senators for impeachment approval

Thus, the final impeachment decision by the Senate would be after the municipal party conventions (to choose candidates for the October elections) be-

CURRENT ACCOUNT

In May 2016, Brazil posted a current account surplus of USD1.2 billion. This was the best monthly result since August 2007 (USD 1.233 billion). In May 2015, Brazil posted a deficit of -USD 3.4 billion. In 2016, the accumulated deficit is now -USD5.966 billion and the 12-month accumulation is -USD29.5 billion. On 24 June, the Central Bank modified its current account estimate for 2016, from -USD15 billion to -USD10 billion. The main reason for this improvement is the decline in Brazil's imports.

ZIKA VIRUS

What is it?

Zika virus is a mosquito-borne flavivirus that was first identified in Uganda in 1947. In July 2015 Brazil reported an association between Zika virus infection and Guillain-Barré syndrome. In October 2015 Brazil reported an association between Zika virus infection and microcephaly.

Signs and Symptoms

The incubation period (the time from exposure to symptoms) of Zika virus disease is not clear, but is likely to be a few days. The symptoms are similar to other arbovirus infections such as dengue, and include fever, skin rashes, conjunctivitis, muscle and joint pain, malaise, and headache. These symptoms are usually mild and last for 2-7 days.

Transmission

Zika virus is primarily transmitted to people through the bite of an infected mosquito from the *Aedes aegypti* in tropical regions. Aedes mosquitoes usually bite during the day, peaking during early morning and late afternoon/evening. This is the same mosquito that transmits dengue, chikungunya and yellow fever. Sexual transmission of Zika virus is also possible. Other modes of transmission such as blood transfusion are being investigated.

Diagnosis

Infection with Zika virus may be suspected based on symptoms and recent history of travel (e.g. residence in or travel to an area with active Zika virus transmission). A diagnosis of Zika virus infection can only be confirmed through laboratory tests on blood or other body fluids, such as urine, saliva or semen.

Treatment

Zika virus disease is usually mild and requires no specific treatment. People sick with Zika virus should get plenty of rest, drink enough fluids, and treat pain and fever with common medicines. If symptoms worsen, they should seek medical care and advice. There is currently no vaccine available.

Prevention

Protection against mosquito bites is a key measure to prevent Zika virus infection. This can be done by wearing clothes (preferably light-coloured) that cover as much of the body as possible; using physical barriers such as window screens or closing doors and windows; sleeping under mosquito nets; and using insect repellent containing DEET, IR3535 or icaridin according to the product label instructions. Special attention and help should be given to those who may not be able to protect themselves adequately, such as young children, the sick or elderly. Travellers and those living in affected areas should take the basic precautions described above to protect themselves from mosquito bites.

It is important to cover, empty or clean potential mosquito breeding sites in and around houses such as buckets, drums, pots, gutters, and used tyres. Communities should support local government efforts to reduce mosquitoes in their locality. Health authorities may also advise that spraying of insecticides be carried out.

For more information, logon to:

<https://www.cdc.gov/zika/>
<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/zika/en/>
<https://kpkesehatan.com/>

ZIKA VIRUS IN BRAZIL

- 49,819 confirmed cases.
- Highest rates of confirmed cases:
 - 1) Mato Grosso (558)
 - 2) Bahia (265)
 - 3) Rio de Janeiro (230)
- 562 municipalities affected by Zika virus in 25 states
- 1,581 confirmed cases of microcephaly.
- 317 suspected deaths of microcephaly and / or alteration of the central nervous system after birth or during pregnancy (miscarriage or stillbirth).
- Over 200,000 military personnel are deployed to distribute pamphlets on Zika virus and to inspect houses for any mosquito breeding grounds.
- No Zika vaccine to date.

Source: Ministry of Health Brazil,

