

NEWSLETTER

January - June 2016

Issue 1/2016



PERMANENT MISSION OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN GENEVA

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Geneva Conference on Preventing Violent Extremism

7-8 April 2016



YB Dato' Sri Anifah Aman, Minister of Foreign Affairs, led the Malaysian delegation to the Geneva Conference on Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) from 7 to 8 April 2016. The Conference was co-hosted by His Excellency Didier Burkhalter, Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Swiss Confederation, and His Excellency Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General. The Conference provided an opportunity for the international community to share experiences and good practices in addressing drivers of violent extremism and to give further consideration to the UN Secretary-General's Plan of Action on PVE.

During the High-level segment, YB Dato' Sri Anifah Aman shared Malaysia's perspective and experiences on preventing violent terrorism at the national level. In order to find lasting solutions, he underscored the need for a better understanding of the factors and root-causes that contribute towards the radicalisation of individuals or groups.

YB Dato' Sri Anifah Aman's participation at the Conference reflects Malaysia's unwavering support and commitment towards tackling the threat of terrorism and violent extremism.



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World Health Assembly

23-28 May 2016

Malaysia's efforts in addressing the dengue outbreak received widespread recognition and support at the 69th session of the World Health Assembly (WHA). Malaysia organized a side event on dengue on 23 May 2016 at the margins of the Assembly to generate interest and demonstrate strong leadership and commitment in the fight against the disease.

Through this side-event, Malaysia hoped to highlight the fact that international investment on dengue management does not tally with its global burden of disease, in comparison to other disease such as Zika and Ebola.



The event was also attended by Dr Margaret Chan, Director General of the World Health Organisation (WHO). In her remarks, she stated that investment in tackling the common vector of *Aedes Aegypti* will prove to generate a high return of investment in the form of tackling not only dengue, but rather a group of vector-borne disease which includes Zika and Chikungunya.

YB Datuk Seri S. Subramaniam, Minister of Health, who led the Malaysian delegation to the WHA, was appointed as the Vice-President of the Assembly. He also co-Chaired the Harvard Health Leaders' Ministerial Roundtable.

Ratification of the Convention Concerning Minimum Wage Fixing, with Special Reference to Developing Countries, 1970 (No. 131)

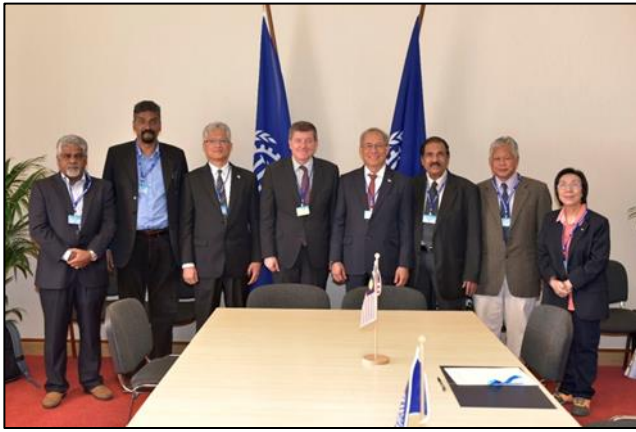
7 June 2016

In an ongoing effort to provide better protection for workers, Malaysia ratified the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Convention No 131: Minimum Wage Fixing Convention.

The ceremony to deposit the instrument of ratification took place on 7 June 2016 at the margins of the International Labour Conference. YB Dato' Sri Richard Riot Jaem, Minister of Human Resource, handed over the instrument to Mr. Guy Ryder, Director General of the ILO. Convention No.131 will enter into force for Malaysia on 7 June 2017, one year after its ratification.

With this ratification, Malaysia becomes the first country in ASEAN and the 53rd country in the World to ratify this Convention. Malaysia has now ratified a total of 17 ILO Conventions.





Convention No.131 sets out a number of essential principles regarding minimum wage fixing, while offering flexibility to member states in their implementation. This Convention provides that the price of labour cannot be determined simply through the application of the rules of supply and demand and that minimum wage is to be provided to all employed.

Mr Guy Ryder welcomed the ratification of Convention No.131 by Malaysia. To this end, he encouraged the Government and social partners to work together towards its full implementation.



Human Rights Council

The Human Rights Council (HRC) is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system made up of 47 States, and it is tasked to promote universal respect for the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all. The HRC holds no fewer than three regular sessions a year, which takes place in March, June and September.

31st Regular Session of the HRC (29 February to 24 March 2016)



The 31st Regular Session of the HRC included 66 meetings, around 3,000 statements, and more than 200 side events. The Session also adopted 37 resolutions, two decisions and one Presidential statement. To this end, the Council acknowledged the increasing workload it is faced with, recognising that this situation could undermine the attention given to all issues discussed.

Malaysia delivered 17 statements throughout the 31st HRC under various agenda items. Malaysia also supported

joint statements issued by the ASEAN, OIC, and LMGs on issues of concern.

Malaysia also co-sponsored 10 resolutions i.e. on cultural rights, composition of staff of the OHCHR, and the right to food. Malaysia also co-sponsored the resolution on the Commemoration of the 30th Anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development by NAM, and six resolutions by the OIC, which consisted of five resolutions on Palestine and resolution 16/18.

32nd Regular Session of the HRC (13 June to 1 July and 8 July 2016)

The 32nd Regular Session of the HRC marked the Council's 10th anniversary. The Session saw the participation of all 193 members for the first time. To commemorate this milestone, a food and cultural fair was organized by member states at the margins of the HRC. The 32nd HRC saw the adoption of 33 resolutions and 1 decision.



Malaysia delivered 12 statements under various agenda items during the Session and supported joint statements issued by the ASEAN, OIC, and LMGs on issues of concern.

Malaysia further co-sponsored seven resolutions on enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights, youth and human rights, right to food, right to peace, mental health and human rights, role of the family in supporting the protection and promotion of human rights of persons with disabilities and the social forum.



Malaysia's bid to become council member for the term 2017-2019

With elections for the Human Rights Council not too far away, Malaysia will continue to play a prominent role on human rights matters especially within the HRC. Malaysia is also coordinator for the Asia Pacific Group for HRC matters.

Disarmament

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT



The Conference on Disarmament (CD) was established in 1979 as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community. Malaysia joined the CD on 5 August 1999. Currently there are 65 member countries of the CD. The CD is also presided by its members on a rotating basis. Each President shall preside for a period of four weeks.

In practice, the CD should adopt a specific programme of work (PoW) focusing on a defined number of issues selected at the beginning of each annual session. However, since 1997, the CD has been in a state of paralysis, without being able to agree on any substantive work on its agenda.

2016 Session of the Conference on Disarmament

The six Presidents for the 2016 CD session are Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Poland and Republic of Korea. The Conference witnessed renewed enthusiasm from members of the CD with the presentation of draft PoWs from Nigeria, the United States, United Kingdom, Russia and Poland. Before the conclusion of Part II of the 2016 session on 1 July 2016, the Polish Presidency officially put forward a draft programme of work, which was based on the proposal by the United Kingdom. The Conference did not adopt the draft programme

after the Russian Federation blocked the consensus. The Russian Federation stressed that the draft proposal could not be considered as comprehensive or balanced, and the consequences of its adoption were not considered.

During the Presidency of Pakistan, Malaysia assumed the G21 Coordinator for the period 21 March - 1 April, 16 May – 29 May) During its coordinatorship, Malaysia coordinated and delivered the G21 Statement on Nuclear Disarmament and the Prevention of An Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS) on 17 May 2016, and also coordinated the G21 statement on Follow-Up to the Special Session of the General Assembly. Based on the request from the Group, Malaysia initiate the work within the Secretariat in modifying the website that reflects the work of the Group of 21.

2016 OPEN ENDED WORKING GROUP (OEWG) ON TAKING FORWARD MULTILATERAL NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS



The General Assembly of the United Nations adopted on 7 December 2015 resolution A/RES/70/33 on the establishment of a OEWG on Taking Forward Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament Negotiations in 2016.

The OEWG is mandated to substantively address concrete effective legal measures, legal provisions and norms that would

need to be concluded to attain and maintain a world without nuclear weapons. It is also mandated to substantively address recommendations on other measures that could contribute to taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations.

The OEWG is a subsidiary body of the General Assembly and work under its rules of procedure.

Malaysia participated actively in the February and May sessions held on 22-26 February and 2 – 13 May 2016 respectively. Together with Costa Rica, Malaysia submitted three working papers during the February session. As a member of the 'De-alerting Group' and the core group of 16 on the Humanitarian Initiative on Nuclear Weapons (HINW), Malaysia also presented working papers on the subjects during the May session. Together with Brazil and Costa Rica, Malaysia coordinated a cross-regional working paper on the role of Nuclear-Weapons Free Zones to energize the nuclear disarmament discourse. In particular, the working paper recognizes the importance of a comprehensive convention on nuclear disarmament, and that the first step in this approach is to commence negotiations on treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons.

Malaysia delivered five statements each during the February and May sessions respectively. Malaysia also co-sponsored a side event with Nigeria, Sweden, Switzerland and Global Zero on 10 May 2016 on nuclear risks and de-alerting.

The May session of the OEWG concluded with strong calls by a majority of states to begin negotiations on a treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons.

Road to UNCTAD XIV



The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is a subsidiary organ of the United Nations General Assembly, established in 1964 to promote trade, investment, and development in developing countries. Headquartered in Geneva, UNCTAD has 194 member States as well as numerous intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other observers.

The quadrennial ministerial Conference is the highest decision-making body of UNCTAD and brings together Heads of State and Government, Ministers and representatives of governments, international institutions, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and the private sector and civil society. The Conference sets UNCTAD's mandate and work priorities and facilitates dialogue on the world's key and emerging issues affecting the global economy, discusses policy options and formulates global policy responses.

UNCTAD XIV took place from 17 to 22 July 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya and included ministerial debates, high-level round tables, thematic events, a World Investment Forum, a Civil Society Forum and a Youth Forum.

This notwithstanding, preparations for UNCTAD XIV, particularly negotiations on the outcome document, were undertaken in Geneva. The Pre-Conference Negotiation Text was prepared by the Trade and Development Board and presented to member States in January 2015. Aptly themed, "From Decision To Action", UNCTAD XVI will discuss the most appropriate means of delivering on the post-2015 development agenda, and most importantly UNCTAD's programme of work for the next four years.

While developed countries do not want issues such as global economic and finance policies discussed within UNCTAD, developing countries regard UNCTAD as an important inter-governmental platform to discuss trade, investment, finance, debt, technology transfer, regional and global value chains and the international investment regime as these issues are interdependent and are intrinsic to development. To this end, developed countries are fighting hard to arrive at a strong outcome document in Nairobi.

The role of UNCTAD in helping countries, especially the developing world, access the benefits of a globalized economy more fairly and effectively and achieve the 2030 Agenda

for Sustainable Development cannot be discounted. Therefore, it is in Malaysia's interest, as a middle income country faced with the many challenges of globalisation and economic uncertainty, to support the work of UNCTAD.

PREVIOUS UNCTAD CONFERENCES

Qatar, 2012
 Ghana, 2008
 Brazil, 2004
 Thailand, 2000
 India, 1998
 South Africa, 1996
 Colombia, 1992
 Switzerland, 1987
 Serbia, 1983
 Philippines, 1979
 Kenya, 1976
 Chile, 1972
 India, 1968
 Switzerland, 1964



PERWAKILAN Geneva

The Malaysian Ladies Association of Geneva, or otherwise known as PERWAKILAN, comprises the female staff and the wives of the staff of the Permanent Mission of Malaysia and currently has 10 members.

The Annual AGM was held on 17 January 2016 at Rumah Malaysia to select the officers bearers for 2016 and discussed activities for the next 12 months.

Throughout the first half of 2016, PERWAKILAN had organised a number of activities including *makan-makan* gatherings, sightseeing, craft and cooking classes as well as karaoke sessions.



PERWAKILAN ACTIVITIES



Beautiful ladies dressed to the nines

Some wore leopard spots, some came in zebra stripes and some even painted their face but all the lovely ladies came dressed in their favourite animal prints for the PERWAKILAN Annual Luncheon on 6 February 2016 at Hotel d'Angleterre.

The afternoon began with opening remarks by the PERWAKILAN President. The afternoon continued with fun and games before the ladies enjoyed a delicious meal of baked lobsters. The ladies also enjoyed a few rounds of karaoke.

YBhg. Datin Norini Mokhtar took home the prize for best dressed at the end of the afternoon.



Patchwork Class

On 6 March 2016, YBhg. Datin Norini Mokhtar conducted a patchwork class at Rumah Malaysia. Joined by PERWAKILAN Berne, the ladies put their needlework skills to the test making patchwork pin cushions. After a couple of hours working on their project, the ladies were very happy to see their little pieces of cloth turn into a pretty pin cushion.

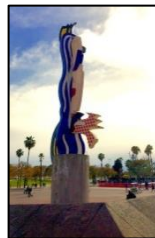




Sightseeing Barcelona



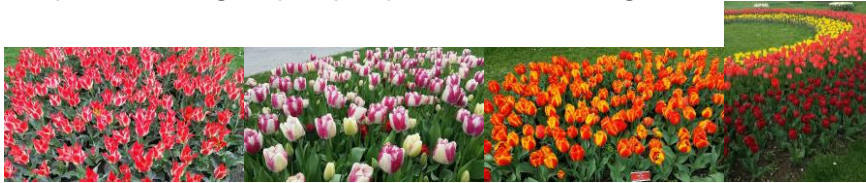
From 20 to 22 February 2016, the PERWAKILAN ladies organized a visit to Barcelona – a city famous for its quirky art and architecture and vibrant street life. The three days two nights trip allowed the ladies to visit Picasso Museum, Museu d'Història de Catalunya, Plaça de Catalunya, Port Vell and, of course, shop at La Boqueria, the large public market in La Rambla.



Pretty tulips all in a row

On 24 April 2016, PERWAKILAN Geneva organized an outing to Morges, located about 45 minutes from Geneva. Every spring, Morges hosts the Tulip Festival at the beautiful Parc de l'Indépendance on the shores of Lake Geneva. This year, the festival featured some 120'000 tulips from almost 350 varieties.

The ladies and their families enjoyed a beautiful spring day in Morges, enjoying a nice picnic, admiring the pretty tulips and of course taking selfies!



Kuih Koci Class

With Ramadhan just around the corner and not wanting to miss those traditional *kuihs* for breaking of fast, the ladies organized a cooking session with Chef Hafiz, on 22 May 2016 to make *Kuih Koci Labu*.

The ingredients needed are pumpkin, flour, coconut milk, grated coconut, a pinch of salt and banana leaves to wrap the *kuih* in. And Voila!



Bidding farewell to President of PERWAKILAN

After four years as President of PERWAKILAN Geneva, YBhg. Datin Norini Mokhtar returned to Malaysia at the end of May 2016. During the time in Geneva, Datin Norini has steered countless activities, not only for PERWAKILAN, but also the ASEAN Ladies Circle. Datin Norini has been generous in sharing her knowledge and experience, which in many ways, have benefitted and enriched PERWAKILAN Geneva.



Other Activities in Geneva...



On 16 January 2016, the Permanent Mission of Malaysia held its annual Christmas and New Year Party. This gathering is an annual tradition of the Permanent Mission to usher in the new year and foster the spirit of friendship and camaraderie among the staff.



The afternoon began with opening remarks from YBhg. Dato' Mazlan Muhammad. In his speech, Dato' Mazlan took the opportunity to wish everyone good health and a successful 2016. The Geneva family then exchanged gifts before feasting to an array of Malaysian delicacies.

Chinese New Year Lunch with Malaysian Association in Geneva (MAG)



The Malaysian Association of Geneva (MAG) organized the annual Chinese New Year Lunch on 13 March 2016 at La Belle Saison Restaurant, Chavannes-près-Renens. Besides members of the Permanent Mission, the luncheon was attended by approximately 60 Malaysians and their families.

The afternoon began with opening remarks by MAG Committee Member, Mr. Maaran Nadarajah and YBhg. Dato' Mazlan Muhammad. The children then received "Ang Pows" before everyone enjoyed a lovely buffet lunch.

Gathering at Rumah Malaysia

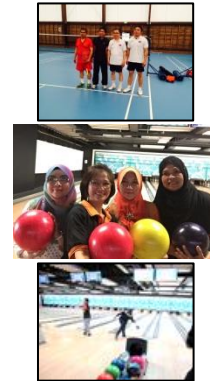


YBhg. Dato' Mazlan Muhammad and Datin Norini Mokhtar hosted a gathering at Rumah Malaysia on 10 April 2016. All home-based staff of the Permanent Mission and members of the Malaysian Association of Malaysia (MAG) attended get-together.



Though a long way from home, the guests were treated to some delicious Malaysian delicacies: *Nasi Lemak*, *Rendang*, *Sambal Bilis* and *Kuih Bakar*.

Bowling, Badminton and Ping-pong



In the run-up to the annual ASEAN Sport and Family Day, scheduled in September 2016, the ASEAN Missions in Geneva organised a series of sports competition. The Permanent Mission of Malaysia participated and won in the following sports events:

Ping Pong (10 May 2016)

Mrs. Hajariah Abu Kasim won gold in the singles match; and Ms. Syuhada Adnan and Mrs. Hajariah Abu Kasim won bronze in the doubles match.

Bowling (15 May 2016)

The Malaysian team comprising Mrs. Hajariah Abu Kasim, Mrs. Saimun Ismail, Mrs. Rosliza Zawawi and Ms. Carmencita Araos won bronze.

Badminton (28 May 2016)

Mr. Sohaimi Ahmad won silver in the men's singles match; and Mr. Johan Dali and Mr. Sohaimi Ahmad won first in the men's doubles final.

BEST WISHES



YBhg. Dato' Mazlan Muhammad retired on 30 May 2016 after serving 35 years in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He served as Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the UN in Geneva from 2012 to 2016.

Dato' Mazlan was also High Commissioner of Malaysia to New Zealand (2011-2012), Ambassador of Malaysia to Iran (2001-2004) and Ambassador of Malaysia to Myanmar (2007-2011).

To celebrate Dato' Mazlan's 60th Birthday and to bid him *au revoir*, the Permanent Mission organised a celebration on 30 May 2016.

Dato' Mazlan was presented with a memento from the staff of the Permanent Mission as a token of appreciation.



Mr. Reynaldo Bais joined the Permanent Mission of Malaysia on 21 January 1991. Mr Bias served as a gardener in Rumah Malaysia. After 25 years of service, Mr. Bais retired on 16 March 2016.

As a token of appreciation for his long and dedicated service, the Permanent Mission hosted a farewell and 55th birthday celebration for Mr. Bias on 16 March 2016.



Ms. Priscilla Ann Yap arrived on 3 January 2016 to take up her posting at the Permanent Mission. Ms. Yap is responsible for issues related to economics, development, environment and migration.



Consular Information



The Permanent Mission of Malaysia in Geneva can be contacted for the following services:

- Malaysian visa application
- Report a lost or stolen Malaysian passport
- Birth, marriage and death registration
- Letter of Good Conduct application

Malaysians working or studying in Geneva are advised to register or update their registration with the Consulate. Registering yourself would enable the Consulate to get in touch with you or your designated point of contact during emergencies and to inform you of our activities.

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