

NEWSLETTER

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**PERMANENT MISSION OF
MALAYSIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
IN GENEVA**

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Meet Malaysia's New Permanent Representative



YBhg. Dato' Amran Mohamed Zin arrived in Geneva on 19 August 2016, to take up his role as the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva, replacing YBhg. Dato' Mazlan Muhammad who retired on 30 May 2016. Subsequently, Dato' Amran presented his credentials to Mr. Michael Møller, Director General of the United Nations Office at Geneva on 23 August 2016.

At the beginning of his arrival, Dato' Amran had also called on the heads of the various organizations based in Geneva. Among others, he had met with the President of the Human Rights Council,

H.E. Ambassador Choi Kyonglim; Secretary General of UNCTAD, Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi; Secretary General of ITU; Mr. Haolin Zhao, Director General of WIPO, Dr. Francis Gurry; and Director General of ILO, Mr. Guy Ryder.

Prior to his appointment as Permanent Representative of Malaysia, Dato' Amran served as Malaysia's Ambassador to Turkey.

This is also Dato' Amran's second posting in Geneva. He had previously served as Deputy Permanent Representative from 2004 to 2008.



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135th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly 23 - 27 October 2016



Malaysia participated in the 135th IPU Assembly in Geneva from 23 to 27 October 2016. YB Dato' Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz, Minister of Tourism and Culture (MOTAC) headed the Malaysian delegation to the meeting.



Other Malaysian Parliamentarians (MPs) who participated included YB Datuk Seri Ir. Dr. Wee Ka Siong, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department; YB Senator Datuk Yoo Wei How, Member of the Senate; YB Senator Datuk Mariany Mohammad Yit, Member of the Senate; YB Dato' Raja Kamarul Bahrin Shah Raja Ahmad, Member of Parliament for Kuala Terengganu; YB Su Keong Siong, Member of Parliament for Ipoh Timur; and YB Julian Tan Kok Ping, Member of Parliament for Stampin.



The MPs participated actively in the week-long deliberations that covered issues ranging from rights of parliamentarians to the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the situation in Syria



Human Rights Council

Reflections on the 10th Anniversary of the Human Rights Council

The Human Rights Council (HRC) commemorated the 10th anniversary of its establishment in 2016. During one of the Council's Sessions this year, the

Council took the opportunity to reflect on the progress that has been achieved in promoting and protecting human rights globally, as well as the challenges that remain in the future.



On one hand, the Council has managed to reach out and improve the understanding on human rights, expand the scope of those rights, and thread new paths for cooperation and reconciliation relating to human rights issues. On the other hand, the HRC has also identified the implementation gap of human rights commitments made by States through human rights mechanisms, namely the international human rights conventions which States are party to, the Council's mechanisms such as the Universal Periodic Review, as well as in other international fora, as a major future work of this Council.



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mechanisms such as the Universal Periodic Review, as well as in other international fora, as a major future work of this Council.

Malaysia expressed its visions on the Council's future work through several initiatives this year. In its statements, Malaysia emphasized the need for the Council to continue to uphold the principles of universality, indivisibility, interrelatedness, and interdependence of all human rights for all people. As a developing nation, Malaysia underscored the importance of ensuring a balanced focus be given to economic, social and cultural rights, and civil and political rights.

Malaysia highlighted that the right to development for example, continues to be plagued by politicization that hampers its progress within the Council. Hence, Malaysia insisted on a greater commitment from all UN Member States to implement this right, which is an important catalyst to a successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Within the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), Malaysia supported the creation of the mandate of a

Special Rapporteur on the right to development. The establishment of this important mandate during the 33rd Regular Session of the HRC in September 2016 is considered a milestone achievement for developing nations in their pursuit of real progress in the creation of a conducive international environment for development.



In 2017, the eleventh cycle of the Council, Malaysia looks forward to advancing its participation in and contribution to the Council's deliberations. As Malaysia prepares for its bid to join the Council's membership once again for the term 2018-2020 at the elections to be held in 2017, Malaysia will continue to carry its agenda as a progressive developing nation that promote human rights, development, and peace and security through the Council's work.

Disarmament

AUGUST 2016 SESSION OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON TAKING FORWARD MULTILATERAL NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS

Three sessions of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations plenary meetings were held at the UN in Geneva in February, May and August 2016. The OEWG, established through a resolution adopted in December 2015, was tasked with addressing 'concrete effective legal measures, legal provisions and norms that would need to be concluded to attain and maintain a world without nuclear weapons'; and 'substantively address recommendations on other measures that could contribute to taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations.



Participants of the third session of the OEWG discussed the Chair's zero draft of the report which should reflect a balanced

summary of discussions from the February and May sessions of the OEWG. The paragraphs of the Chair's zero draft report which were contested by participants of the OEWG are paras 58 and 59 on conclusions and agreed recommendations. These paragraphs included reference to the support of a majority of states participating in the OEWG for the need 'to elaborate concrete effective legal measures' and to convene a conference in 2017 'to negotiate a legally-binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination'.



At the May session of the OEWG, ten cross-regional Non-Nuclear Weapons States including Malaysia, jointly submitted a working paper, formally proposing a 2017 conference to launch negotiations for a nuclear ban. Malaysia has consistently participated actively throughout the negotiations.

Following negotiations in the August session of the OEWG of the text of the draft report which included negotiated and

compromised language, the OEWG was unable to adopt the report by consensus. In the final meeting of the OEWG, Australia called for a vote on the report as it was unable to support the text of the draft report, and would not accept a note of disassociation with the report. On 19 August 2016, the 103 participants of the OEWG adopted its report by a non-recorded vote with 68 in favor, 22 against and 13 abstentions.

On 27 October 2016, the First Committee of the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution to convene negotiations in 2017 on a "legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination". The voting result was 123 nations in favour and 38 against, with 16 abstentions.



The resolution acts on the recommendation made in the August session of the OEWG in Geneva. The resolution sets up a negotiating conference to be held over 20 days (from 27 to 31 March 2017 and from 15 June to 7 July 2017), at the UN in New York.

8TH BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (BWC) REVIEW CONFERENCE



The Eighth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction concluded its three-week meeting on 25 November 2016. The Conference was presided by Ambassador György Molnár of Hungary and adopted a Final Document, which includes a Final Declaration on the articles of the Convention and a series of decisions and recommendations.



H.E. Dato` Amran Mohamed Zin, Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations Office and Other International Organisations in Geneva delivered general statement during the Conference. Malaysia emphasized that effective implementation of the Convention requires a non-discriminatory and balanced approach to all its provisions, and it is necessary for all the inter-linked elements of the Convention be dealt with in a balanced and comprehensive manner, whether they relate to regulation, compliance or promotion. Malaysia has undertaken a number of concrete steps to strengthen the national BWC implementation. Malaysia has also undertaken bilateral and regional efforts to strengthen BWC implementation in cooperation with other States Parties.



Malaysia played an active role throughout the Conference. Malaysia was one of the Vice

Presidents of the Conference and Mr. Zahid Rastam, Deputy Permanent Representative was selected as the facilitator on Article X – Cooperation. Malaysia also delivered seven interventions on substantive issues to be decided during the Conference.



The Biological Weapons Convention was opened for signature in 1972 and entered into force in 1975. The Biological Weapons Convention is the first multilateral disarmament treaty banning an entire category of weapons. It currently has 178 States Parties, with a further six having signed but not yet ratified.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

What is Traditional Knowledge?

Traditional knowledge (TK) is a living body of knowledge passed down from generation to generation within a community. It often forms part of a people's cultural and spiritual identity. Indigenous knowledge is more often unwritten and handed down orally from generation to generation, and is transmitted and preserved in that way.



It can be, for example, agricultural, environmental or medicinal knowledge, or knowledge associated with genetic resources. Among others knowledge about traditional medicines; hunting or fishing techniques; animal migration patterns, water management and traditional architecture.

In the Malaysian context, a majority of our Orang Asli or indigenous communities

possess and still practice this intricate knowledge gained and passed down over generations. Not only has this knowledge assured their survival and sustainability of the forest but the people and their cultures dependent upon it.

Why Protect Traditional Knowledge?

The rich biodiversity and TK in many developing countries, play a critical role in the health care, food security, culture, religion, identity, environment, sustainable development and trade. It is particularly crucial for the most vulnerable segments of their societies, and for indigenous peoples worldwide.



However, there are concerns that this knowledge is being used and patented by third parties, with few or none of the benefits being shared with the original TK-holders, and

without their prior informed consent. Developed economies generally regard TK as being in the public domain and thus is free and publicly available for use.



To this end, the preservation, protection and promotion of TK is of key importance for developing countries, including Malaysia.

How to Protect Traditional Knowledge?

The different facets of these complex issues are being addressed in a number of forums. The Convention on Biological Diversity highlights the important role of TK and its influence on local and indigenous communities in the preservation of biological diversity.

Intellectual property aspects are being studied in the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Intergovernmental Committee

on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional knowledge and Folklore (IGC). Following the 2015 WIPO General Assembly's renewed mandate for the IGC, the Committee has recommenced text based negotiations and is working towards an international legal instrument(s) on intellectual property and genetic resources, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions.

Two sessions of the IGC, in September and November 2016 were dedicated to TK.



While there was some progress on the draft text, a range of complex issues remain on the

table. Malaysia had participated in both sessions and voiced the importance of striking a balance between the holders and users of TK.

Malaysia through the Malaysian Intellectual Property Corporation (MyIPO) in collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Department of Orang Asli Development and respective state governments is also working on a database to document TK found in Malaysia.

Activities in Geneva

Hari Raya Aidilfitri Celebration, 6 July 2016

Being thousands of miles away from home does not mean celebrating Aidilfitri in a less elaborate manner. Mr. Zahid Rastam, *chargé-d'affaires* of the Permanent Mission of Malaysia hosted an open house on 1 Syawal for the celebration.

Among the guests were Malaysians residing in Geneva, students, mission staff and their families as well as foreign diplomats.

The guests were served with a variety of Malaysian dishes namely *nasi himpit*, *rendang*, *lemang*, *satay*, as well as traditional dessert, cakes and biscuits. Though far from home, the festive mood and good cheer was truly felt.



Aidil-Adha Gathering at Rumah Malaysia, 12 September 2016

YBhg. Dato' Amran Mohamed Zin hosted a luncheon on Monday, 12 September 2016 to celebrate Aidil-Adha with the staff of the Permanent Mission and Malaysians living in Geneva. This was the first event hosted by Dato' Amran at Rumah Malaysia since arriving in Geneva.

The luncheon presented an excellent opportunity for Malaysians to get together for the celebration and provided the chance for Dato' Amran to meet the Malaysian community in Geneva.



Malaysian Association Geneva (MAG) Annual Barbeque and Annual General Meeting (AGM), 25 September 2016

The Malaysian Association Geneva (MAG) held its annual BBQ on Sunday, 25 September 2016 at Parc Pré Vert, Signal de Bougy. The Permanent Mission prepared the barbeque while the others each contribute a Malaysian favourite.



Apart from the food and fun, MAG held its Annual General Assembly (AGM). Mr. Lim Hong Siew was re-elected as the President of MAG. Mr. Zahid Rastam was appointed a committee member of MAG, representing the Permanent Mission.



MAG also took the opportunity of this gathering to welcome YBhg. Dato' Amran Mohamed Zin.



National Sports Day 2016, 8 October 2016

In conjunction with National Sports Day 2016, the Permanent Mission organized a trekking activity on Saturday, 8 October 2016. The event was participated by staff of the Mission and their families.



After a short stretching exercise, the participants set off on the trail in Château de Penthes. The morning began with a light warm-up exercise in the park leading up to the trail.



The hour-long nature trail along Chemin de l'Impératrice in Château de Penthes Park was enjoyable and scenic. The nice weather was a bonus and the participants were treated to a beautiful view of Lake Geneva and the Alps.

The annual National Sports Day celebration was started in 2015 as part of the government's initiative to promote a healthy lifestyle among Malaysians.



Annual Bowling Tournament 27 November 2016

The Permanent Mission organized its annual bowling tournament on Sunday, 27 November 2016 at the La Praille Bowling Alley. The event was well attended by staff of the Permanent Mission, members of MAG and their families.

Prizes were given to the top three as well as for most individual pinfalls for the men's, women's and children categories respectively.

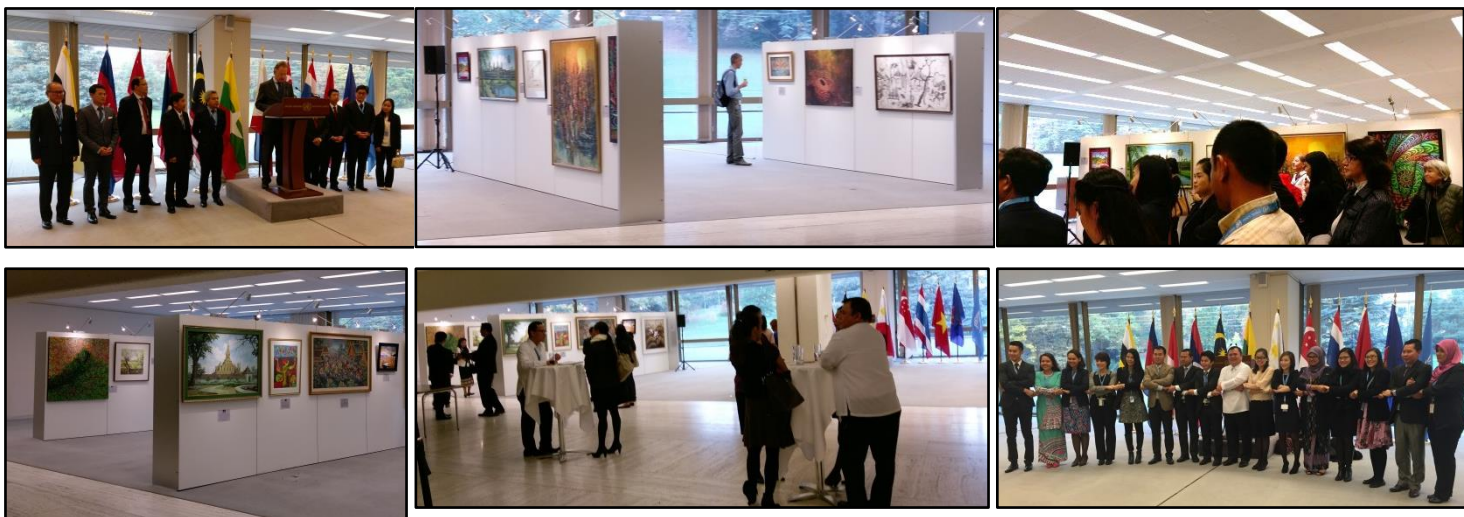
The event presented a good occasion for Malaysians in Geneva to get together over a sport well loved by all.



ASEAN Geneva Committee

ASEAN Painting Exhibition 2016

The ASEAN Geneva Committee (AGC) organized a Painting Exhibition at the Palais des Nations from 31 October to 11 November 2016. The exhibition featured approximately 34 paintings from all ten ASEAN member states, which showcased our diversity, culture and values. The exhibition was also a good opportunity to promote artistic talents from ASEAN countries.



Malaysia's featured four paintings which showcased our rich cultural diversity as well as biodiversity as follows



KINABALU SPIRIT by
MUHAMMAD FARIT
AZAMUDDIN MUSA



RAFFLESIA by
VELISON REIMIE
GAIRIS

DIVERSITY by
MUHAMMAD AMIN
MUHIDIN



COLOURFUL SEA
by **ASMADI SAIR**



ASEAN Sports and Family Day 2016



The ASEAN Community in Geneva (ACG) held its annual sports and family day on Saturday, 24 September 2016 at the Onex Sport Centre, Geneva. The event was participated by the diplomats and staff of the ASEAN Permanent Missions in Geneva and their families.



The day's events included various games such as musical chairs and potato picking for kids, football, the Ambassadors' game, the tug of war and the awarding of medals.



In the run-up to the AFSD 2016, the ASEAN Missions in Geneva had 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 event; and Ms. Syuhada Adnan and Mrs. Hajariah Abu Kasim won bronze in the doubles event.



Badminton (28 May 2016)

Mr. Sohaimi Ahmad won silver in the mens singles event
Mr. Johan Dali and Mr. Sohaimi Ahmad won first in the mens singles event



Bowling (15 May 2016)

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

21st AGC – WIPO CONSULTATION MEETING

The annual ASEAN Geneva Committee, AGC-WIPO Consultation Meeting was held on Wednesday, 21 September 2016 at the Beau-Rivage Hotel, Geneva. The Meeting is an annual breakfast engagement between the Director General of WIPO and Permanent Representatives of ASEAN Member States in Geneva.



These annual consultations present a good opportunity for Geneva based ASEAN Missions to keep abreast of intellectual property developments in the ASEAN region and also contribute views and ideas toward improving the intellectual property ecosystem in ASEAN. Additionally, the consultations serve as a good opportunity for ASEAN to raise issues of interest and concern with the DG ahead of the WIPO General Assembly.



PERWAKILAN Geneva

Welcome Ladies!

The second half of 2016 saw the arrival of four new members of PERWAKILAN Geneva, including President of the association, YBhg. Datin Razana Mat. The other new members include Puan Fadzilah Abu Hasan, Puan Azlina Abu Hassan and Cik Pauziah Mohd Nasir.

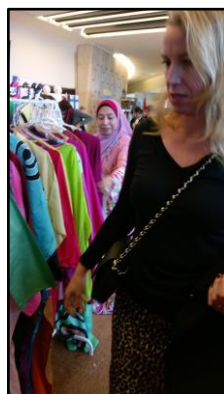


International Annual UN Women's Guild Bazaar 2017

Every year the United Nations Women's Guild (UNWG), in collaboration with the Permanent Missions in Geneva organizes an International Bazaar to raise funds for disadvantaged children around the world. Over the years, the Bazaar has become the premier event in the international community, raising approximately 300,000 CHF and attracting more than 6,000 visitors.



This year was no different. The Bazaar was held on 22 November 2016 at the Palais des Nations. It featured approximately 70 national booths at which a myriad of International arts, native crafts and restaurant stalls featuring the different cuisine and wares from around the world were sold for a good cause.



In the spirit of charity, the PERWAKILAN ladies supported this noble cause by participating in the Bazaar, selling Malaysian batik, crafts and curry puffs. The Malaysian stall was a hit, though many visitors had hoped to find *nasi lemak*, *satay* and other Malaysian favourites. Next year perhaps.



WELCOME

Encik Ruhaizad Ahmad, arrived on 8 July 2016 to take up his posting in Geneva. Encik Ruhaizad is responsible for consular, administrative and finance matters at the Permanent Mission.

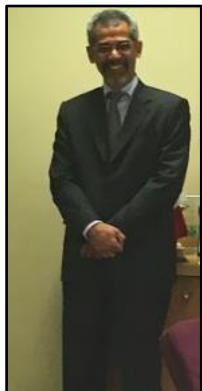


Cik Pauziah Mohd Nasir arrived on 11 July 2016 to take up her posting in Geneva. She is the Personal Assistant to the Deputy Permanent Representative.



Mr. Hamid Chowhury Khan joined the Permanent Mission on 15 November 2016 and currently serves as the Mission's driver.

AU REVOIR...



Encik Sharani Mohd Dali, Second Secretary ended his tour of duty on 13 July 2016 after a four-year posting in Geneva.

Puan Saimun Ismail, Personal Assistant to Deputy Permanent Representative, ended her tour of duty on 15 July 2016, after a four-year posting Geneva.



The Permanent Mission hosted a farewell on 11 July 2016 to wish them well in their respective assignments.



Mr. Pio Bulang joined the Permanent Mission of Malaysia 8 June 1988. Mr Bulang first served as a cleaner at the Mission and was later promoted to a driver. After 28 years of service, Mr. Bulang retired on 17 October 2016.

As a token of appreciation for his long and dedicated service, the Permanent Mission hosted a farewell and 60th birthday celebration for Mr. Bulang on 17 October 2016.

Mr. Romeo Landicho joined the Permanent Mission of Malaysia on 1 December 1995 as a cleaner. Affectionately known as Romy, he served the Mission for 21 years until his retirement on 21 November 2016.

The Permanent Mission hosted a farewell and 60th birthday celebration as a token of appreciation for his contribution to the Mission.



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.

Permanent Mission of Malaysia, Geneva

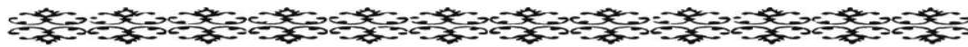
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The Permanent Mission of Malaysia wishes you Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. See you in 2017!