



EMBASSY OF MALAYSIA IN HAVANA REPUBLIC OF CUBA NEWSLETTER *JUNE-DEC 2016*

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WORKING VISIT BY DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT OF MALAYSIA TO REPUBLIC OF CUBA

The Deputy Minister of Transport of Malaysia Yang Berhormat Datuk Abdul Aziz Kaprawi and delegation were on a working visit to attend the 88th Executive Committee of the Latin American Civil Aviation Committee (LACAC) which was held on 16 –18 August 2016 in Havana, Republic of Cuba. This was by the invitation by the Cuban government.

The objective of the working visit was to explore opportunities for Malaysia in order to benefit the development of civil aviation in the Caribbean region as well as to seek support for Malaysia candidacy to the Council of ICAO at the 39th Session of the ICAO Assembly in September 2016.

Besides that, the delegation took time to pay a visit to the Embassy of Malaysia on 16 August 2016. Yang Berhormat Datuk Abdul Aziz Kaprawi and delegation were warmly received by His Excellency Khairi Omar, Malaysian Ambassador, officers and staff of the Embassy. During the visit, the Deputy Minister and delegation were briefed by Ambassador Khairi Omar on the bilateral relations between Malaysia and the Republic of Cuba and how Malaysia can penetrate the Cuban market based on the new economic developments of the country.

The Deputy Minister also took the opportunity to register his sincere appreciation to the Embassy of Malaysia for the assistance given to him and delegation during his working visit to the island.





MALYSIAN DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT MEETS THE MALYSIAN STUDENTS

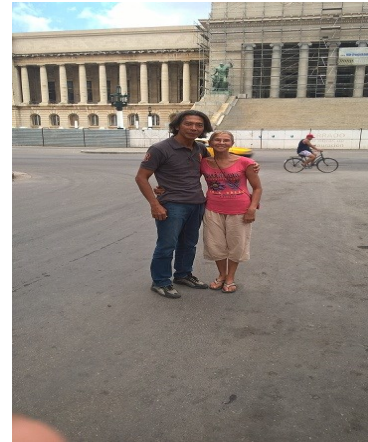
The Malaysian medical students who studies in Cuba were honored to meet Yang Berhormat Datuk Ab Aziz Kaprawi, Deputy Minister of Transport on 19 August 2016.



The casual meet out was arranged by the Embassy of Malaysia. During the gathering, Yang Berhormat Datuk Ab Aziz Kaprawi gave the students words of encouragement for them improve themselves and to make Malaysia proud.

MALYSIAN TRAVELLERS IN THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA

The Embassy of Malaysia was proud to receive Mr Zainal Baharudin and his wife, Mrs Celeste in Cuba on 18 September to 30 September 2016. Both travellers have already travelled half-way across the planet on their bikes and they are not showing any signs of slowing down.



Mr Zainal Baharudin, 53, and his wife Mrs Celeste Theunissen, 51 had travelled across 33 countries from Nepal to South Africa over a year with their 2011 Kawasaki Versys 650. According to the couples, travelling around the world is their dream after years of working hard serving in the corporate world. Right after retiring, Mr Zainal together with his wife started their epic journey in April 2014 by travelling to Nepal also known as the Kingdom of Gorkha before crossing 70-odd borders and reached South Africa in June 2016. Mr Zainal was echoed as saying "I wanted to fulfil my dream while we were still in good health". With the average lifespan of a Malaysian male being 75 years of age, there was not much time left. Next, the couple will complete this year journey to Jamaica, Mexico and some cities in the United States.



The couples have the courtesy call on His Excellency Khairi Omar at the Embassy

The Embassy of Malaysia in Cuba wishes all the best and good luck to the couple in pursuing their dream: to travel all around the globe. Buena suerte!

ASEAN FAMILY GATHERING 2016

The Embassy of Malaysia in Havana, Republic of Cuba hosted the ASEAN Family Gathering 2016 in conjunction with the 49th ASEAN Day celebration on Saturday, 13th August 2016 at the Embassy. The event was aimed to enhance and elevate the spirit of friendship and at the same time to promote awareness among the ASEAN community in Havana.

All other five ASEAN Missions, namely Indonesia, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia as well as Timor Leste, Malaysian students, officials from the Cuban government, local and international media and Malaysian Technical Cooperation Program's Alumni attended the event.



The event started with the flags raising of Malaysia and ASEAN accompanied by rendition of *Negaraku* and ASEAN; *The ASEAN Way* anthem. Subsequently, His Excellency Khairi Omar, Ambassador of Malaysia to the Republic of Cuba and as a capacity of the Chairman for the ASEAN Ambassadors' Group delivered his welcoming remarks. He welcomed the ASEAN family as well as Timor-Leste to the ASEAN Family Gathering 2016 that make an effort to join the event despite their busy schedule. His Excellency Khairi Omar praised and highlighted the achievements accomplished by ASEAN countries so far in the economic, politic and social areas. He also took the opportunity to deliver speech by YABhg. Dato Seri Najib Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia for the 49th ASEAN Day 2016 that was celebrated every 8 August 2016.



His Excellency Khairi Omar also took the opportunity to brief the medias that was invited on the spirit and roles played by ASEAN for its members and at the international platform and wished on behalf of the Government and the people of Malaysia a sincere felicitations on the occasion of His Excellency Fidel Castro's 90th birthday which falls on 13 August 2016.



MALAYSIA PARTICIPATED IN THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR OF HAVANA (FIHAV) 2016

The Embassy of Malaysia together with the Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) based in Miami took the opportunity to participate in the International Trade Fair of Havana FIHAV 2016 which was held on 3-4 November 2016.

The event was held annually since 1983 is one of the most important trade event for Cuba and the Caribbean region as a whole.

All sectors of the Cuban companies and agencies gather in this fair, presenting the most completed national and international trading exhibition, facilitating an ideal space for exhibitors and visitors to establish commercial links, finalized business, identify partners and exchange knowledge on the new technological developments.

It is also an ideal business platform to know the benefits Cuba offers for the development of foreign capital and the international economic relations through the Cuban Investment Act and the creation of the Special Development Zone of Mariel.



Taking advantage of the trade event held during that time, Ambassador Khairi Omar accompanied by Mr. Nadzri paid courtesy calls on the Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade and Investment, Ileana Nuñez Mordoche and the President of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr Orlando Hernández Guillén. During the meetings, both sides discussed issues and ideas that could evaluate the potential for economic and business opportunities between the two countries.



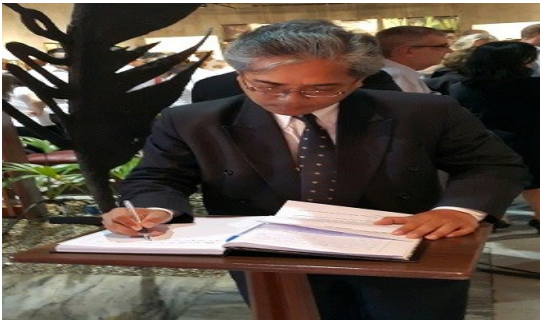


**THE DEATH OF CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY LEADER
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF FIDEL CASTRO**

Fidel Castro Ruz, the leader of the Cuban Revolution passed away on 25 November 2016. The entire world reacted to his death while the Cuban people in the Island cries for what they consider The father and Guide of the Cuban Revolution.

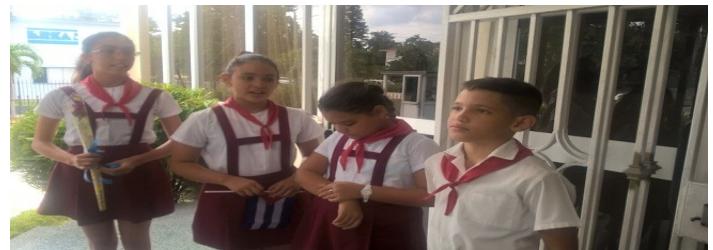
At the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Cuba, Malaysia's Ambassador to the Republic of Cuba, His Excellency Khairi Omar also joined in the ceremony held at the historic Revolution Square in Havana to pay tribute to the former Cuban Commander-in-Chief.

The Malaysian Ambassador also signed the book of condolences on the passing of the Cuban Revolutionary Leader at the Jose Marti Memorial. In his message, Ambassador Khairi Omar wrote that President Castro's legacy as the revolutionary leader would endure for many years to come not just in Cuba but throughout the world. He also conveyed Malaysia's support for the Cuban people during this period of national mourning.



CUBAN CHILDREN THANKED THE GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA FOR VOTING AGAINST THE BLOCKADE AT THE UNITED NATIONS

On 26 October 2016, short after the voting at the United Nations General Assembly for the resolution presented by Cuba on the need to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States to the Island, a representatives from primary school students made a quick thanking visit to the Embassy of Malaysia in Havana. The students brought a bouquet of flowers and Cuban flag to thank the Malaysia for the vote to the Cuba. In a short but emotive ceremony, the little kids expressed their appreciation to our Government and shared a few words with Embassy staff.



COURTESY CALLS

HIS EXCELLENCY KHAIRI OMAR PAYS COURTESY CALL ON H.E. EDUARDO RODRIGUEZ DAVILA, DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA

His Excellency Khairi Omar paid a courtesy call on His Excellency Eduardo Rodriguez Davila, Deputy Minister of Transport of the Republic of Cuba on 22 September 2016 at the Ministry of Transport. During the courtesy call, both sides discussed issues and exchanged views for future collaboration and cooperation between Malaysia and Cuba in the field of transportation.



Ambassador Khairi Omar and Cuban Deputy Minister of Transport



COURTESY CALL ON H.E. GERI BENOIT, AMBASSADOR OF HAITI BY H.E. KHAIRI OMAR, AMBASSADOR OF MALAYSIA TO THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA

The Ambassador of Malaysia to Cuba paid on 25 October 2016 a courtesy call on H.E. Géri Benoit, Ambassador of Haiti in Havana at the Embassy of Haiti in Cuba. The ambassadors met in a friendly environment while highlighted the devastation caused by Hurricane Matthew on the Republic of Haiti. Ambassador Khairi Omar expressed his condolences for the tragedy and reiterated the support of Malaysian government.

COURTESY CALL BY MR. MICHAEL LEES, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF HAVANA ON HIS EXCELLENCY KHAIRI OMAR

The Director of Havana International School, Mr. Michael Less paid a courtesy call on His Excellency Khairi Omar on 7 September 2016 at the Embassy of Malaysia. During the courtesy call, both sides had the opportunity to exchange views on the development and progress of the International School and the system of education in the Republic of Cuba



COURTESY CALL ON MR. EUSEBIO LEAL SPENGLER, BY HIS EXCELLENCY KHAIRI OMAR

On 7 October 2016, H.E. Khairi Omar, Ambassador of Malaysia in Cuba paid a courtesy call on Mr. Eusebio Leal Spengler, Historian of the City of Havana. During the meeting Ambassador received a detailed explanation of the history of the City, which was adorned with the fluent and colorful wording of Mr. Leal. Ambassador Khairi Omar was also toured thorough different buildings and sites of the City while delighted with the colonial architecture of the area.



OUR ACTIVITIES

GATHERING WITH THE MALAYSIAN STUDENTS AT THE HERSHEY PARK ON 24 AUGUST 2016

The Embassy of Malaysia organised a picnic with the Malaysian students at the Hershey Park, Mayabeque Province on 23 August 2016. Prior to the event, the Embassy had organised a luncheon with Malaysian students in Santa Clara province on 2 April 2016. This casual but meaningful event was aimed at providing morale support for the students to excel and progress in their studies in the island.

To reminisce about the famous tasty meals in Malaysia, Cuba's PERWAKILAN Chairman, Madam Nor Asikin prepared delicious *nasi lemak*, *rendang ayam*, *kuih muih* and etc for the guests.

For record, as of September 2016, 10 Malaysian students graduated in the field in Medicine from the Latin American Medical School. Another 12 students are still pursuing their studies and the last batch is expected to graduate in 2020.



MALAYSIA PARTICIPATED IN CUBA BONFIRE 2016

The Embassy of Malaysia in Havana, Cuba took part in the celebration of the 56th Anniversary of the Cuban Institute for Friendship with People (ICAP) on 16 December 2016 at the Antonio Mella Camp, an hour journey from Havana, Cuba. This event was organized by the Cuban Institute for Friendship with People.

Approximately 15 embassies from ASEAN, Caribbean, African, United States and Middle East participated in the event. The objective of the event was to strengthen solidarity, friendship and cooperation between the Cuban people and other peoples from around the world for peace, democracy and social advancement.

The event started with the opening remarks by Kenia Serrano, President of ICAP who delivered a solidarity speech praising the commitment given by countries to unified cooperation amongst each others. Furthermore, the crowds were offered free foods and drinks from various countries. The highlight of the event was the lighting of the bonfire that took place at the camp compound. The event ended at 10.00 pm.



THE MALAYSIAN TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAM'S ALUMNI GATHERING 2016



The Embassy of Malaysia hosted a gathering for the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Program (MTCP) Alumni members 2016 at Chancery on 13 August 2016. The get-together event was held with the aimed to gather as many as possible the MTCP's Alumni in order to strengthen the existing friendship and networking between them and the members of the Malaysian Embassy. The turnout was encouraging and that proved the relationship among MTCP Alumni is still standing strong.

In order to promote Malaysia's gastronomy, the guests were served with Malaysian mouthwatering delicacies such as *ayam panggang*, *kuih muih* and etc. The MTCP Alumni congratulated and expressed their appreciation to the Embassy for organizing this wonderful gathering and they hoped there would be more events like this in the future.



GATHERING ON THE OCCASION OF MALAYSIA FESTIVE CELEBRATIONS ON 16 SEPTEMBER 2016 AT THE OFFICIAL RESIDENCE OF THE MALAYSIAN AMBASSADOR

In conjunction with Eid Al Adha, Malaysian Independence Day and Malaysia Day celebrations, the Embassy of Malaysia in Havana, Republic of Cuba held a modest yet meaningful event for the triple festivals on 16 September 2016 at the Official Residence of the Ambassador of Malaysia. Ambassadors and diplomats who are residing in Havana, representatives of the Cuban government, Cuban local residents, Malaysian students, MTCP alumni, journalists and others were invited to the event. The objective of the event was to celebrate important Malaysian festivals and to introduce the Malaysian culture in foreign land.



Likewise during the event, the guests were served with Malaysian traditional cuisine as part of the strategy to promote Malaysia's gastronomy at the international level



NATIONAL SPORTS DAY 2016 ORGANIZED BY THE EMBASSY OF MALAYSIA IN HAVANA, CUBA

The Malaysian Embassy in Havana, the Republic of Cuba organised the National Sports Day on 8 October 2016. The objective of the activity was to foster a healthy culture as well as promoting Malaysia sports activities. A total of 35 participants attended the activity, including ambassadors, diplomats, local media, the Malaysian students, and citizens of Cuba who joined the activities that have been planned.

Participants took a 45 minutes brisk walk and once finished played some typical Malaysian games. At the end of the program, guests were served with traditional delicacies from Malaysia.





Places you must visit in Cuba



Museum of the Revolution

Located in Old Havana, the building used to be the Presidential Palace and became the Museum of the Revolution after the triumph of the Cuban Revolution. Once inside, you can make a tour through the history of Cuba in the XX Century



José Martí Revolution Square

Place of singular historical value that has been the scenario of many of the main events, parades and developments of the Cuban Revolution. It hosts the José Martí Memorial, which is one of the most emblematic places that exhibits texts and personal history of the national hero of Cuba as well as the monuments to Camilo Cienfuegos and Ernesto Che Guevara.



The National Capitol

The National Capitol Building in Havana, Cuba, was the seat of government in Cuba until the Cuban Revolution in 1959, and is now home to the Cuban Academy of Sciences. Its design and name recall the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. and houses the world's third largest indoor statue. Notable symbol of the city of great architectural conditions.



National Museum of Fine Arts of Havana

It is a museum of Fine Arts that exhibits Cuban art collections from the colonial times up to contemporary generations. It is a public museum with two buildings designed one for Cuban Arts and the other one for Universal Arts. It keeps one of the greatest collections of paintings and sculptures of Latin America.



Old Havana

It is the city-center of Havana, Cuba. It is the historic heart of Cuba's capital city and the largest colonial centre in Latin America. Full of colour and personality it contains the core of the original city of Havana. It is a mix of historic buildings, museums, galleries, churches and lively plazas. It is the place where most of the tourists to Havana spend their time. It's full of interesting architecture with most of the main attractions concentrated around four *plazas*.



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