



# News Bulletin

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Embassy of Malaysia in Kyiv, Ukraine

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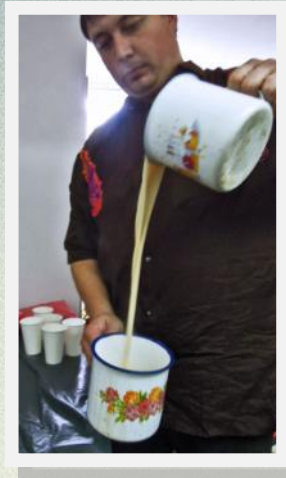
## From the Embassy's Desk

### **Eight Years with the Embassy of Malaysia: Reflections of a Ukrainian Staff**

**Author: Andriy Kurasov**

For almost eight years I have been delighted to work with the Embassy of Malaysia in Ukraine. My position is translator, but it may sound quite misrepresentative though. Apart from daily routine translation and interpretation, the job involves analysis of Ukrainian political milieu, media coverage, and other duties.

My educational background as a Master in Public Policy was certainly of significant help to deliver quality results. Anyhow, the experience, knowledge and skills obtained while working at the Embassy were much more valuable. Throughout the years of the employment, my understanding of international relations, protocol and diplomacy has tremendously advanced due to various events and projects I was honoured to be engaged in as well as thanks to the efficient guidance by the Malaysian diplomats.



Teh Tarik Master Class



Outdoor Fun

Plentitude of diverse activities organized by the Embassy were a true joy and professional experience for me. To name a few, there were launching of one of a kind book about Malaysia in Ukrainian language, outreach projects, food and culture festivals, outdoor sport occasions together with my Ukrainian colleagues, open house festivities during Hari Raya celebrations and many other events bringing closer Malaysian and Ukrainian people.

The most thrilling were the visits of senior officials from Malaysia to meet their Ukrainian counterparts. Despite certain challenges while preparing for such visits, I was always motivated by the fact that if the agenda is completed successfully, it brings another step forward in forging the bilateral relations between Malaysia and my home country.

I still remember the tremor experienced while briefing the Honourable Dato' Sri Anifah Aman, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, during his visit to Ukraine regarding the MH-17. It will always remain unforgettable making a sightseeing tour in Kyiv, in between his official meetings, for the Honourable Dato' Sri Nazri Aziz, Minister in the Prime Minister Department at that time.

The visit by Tan Sri Dato' Sri Ng. Yen Yen, who was Minister of Tourism then, will be certainly memorable. The programme of her visit was changing every hour mak-

ing it somewhat hectic but enriching in terms of gaining new experience in how to accommodate all the requirements and make the visit fruitful and efficient.

The biggest challenge in my work, which is also its beauty, is to be a Ukrainian working for the Malaysian government. I am enjoying the opportunity to be able to assist Malaysian diplomats in understanding the Ukrainian politics, economy and culture. Doing best in taking an impartial and objective stand in my assessments, I am always motivated to update about the developments in my home land so that Malaysia's interests in Ukraine would grow and be fulfilled.

I must also confess that the Embassy of Malaysia became not only the place to be thankful for enriching my professional experience and advancement of the personal growth, but it was the meeting point with my future spouse. Working together first as colleagues became something bigger after a while. After realizing that our relations



Hari Raya Celebrations

were becoming serious, my future wife changed the job to avoid possible un-professional behavior and non-observance of work ethics standards.

After living happy married life for a few years already, I must say terima kasih to the Embassy of Malaysia and to the home based staff for not only providing me with a good and self-fulfilling work, but also for the fact that I have found my ever love here.

Once again, terima kasih!

*The writer is the Translator at the Embassy of Malaysia in Kyiv, Ukraine. The views expressed here are entirely his own.*

## Embassy's Activities

### **Welcoming Ukraine's Future Diplomats to the Embassy of Malaysia**

The Embassy of Malaysia in Kyiv hosted 13 graduate students of the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on 11 March 2016, making it the Embassy's inaugural outreach activity for this year under Malaysia's Outreach and Public Diplomacy Programme. The students were presented with a tourism promotional video on Malaysia and briefing on Malaysia's country profile. Besides, the students were treated to a few Malaysian desserts and savoury.



Students of the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine at the Embassy of Malaysia

The students who were all diplomat candidates for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine were interested to know about Malaysia's foreign policy principles and diplomatic service as well as prospects of enhancing bilateral relations between Malaysia and Ukraine. In addition, they were actively involved in the Q&A session, in-

quiring about Malaysia's tourism promotion strategy and how Malaysia balances tourism with security concerns. The students also commented that they were inspired by Malaysia's brand as a moderate and progressive Muslim nation.



Group Photography



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