



**EMBASSY OF MALAYSIA  
IN KUWAIT  
E-NEWSLETTER ISSUE 4  
(JANUARY – MARCH 2016)**



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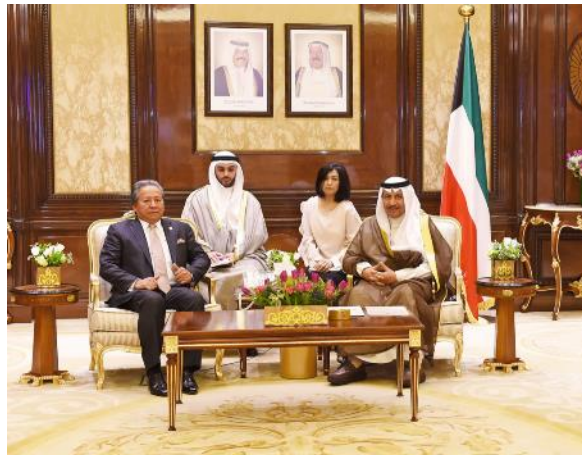
## HIGHLIGHTS, JANUARY – MARCH 2016

### *The Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs undertakes first Official Visit to Kuwait, 21-23 March 2016*

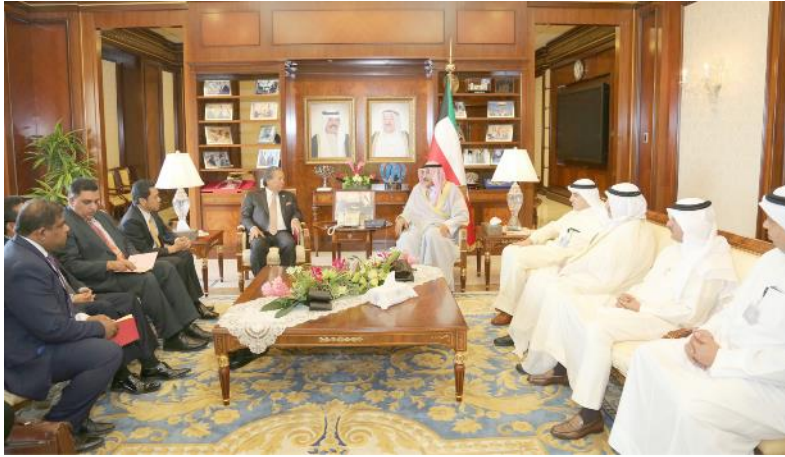


*The Honourable Dato' Sri Anifah Aman, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia had an audience with His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of Kuwait at Bayan Palace on 22 March 2016*

*The Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia made a courtesy call on His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Prime Minister of Kuwait at Bayan Palace on 22 March 2016*



*The Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia made a courtesy call on His Excellency Marzouq Al-Ghanim, Speaker of the National Assembly (NA) at the NA on 22 March 2016*



*The Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia had a bilateral meeting with His Excellency Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kuwait at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 22 March 2016. The meeting was followed by the signing of the Trade Agreement between both countries.*



*Lunch banquet hosted by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kuwait in honour of the Honourable Dato' Sri Anifah Aman and the Malaysian delegation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 22 March 2016*

## *Meetings with Government & Semi-Government Officials*



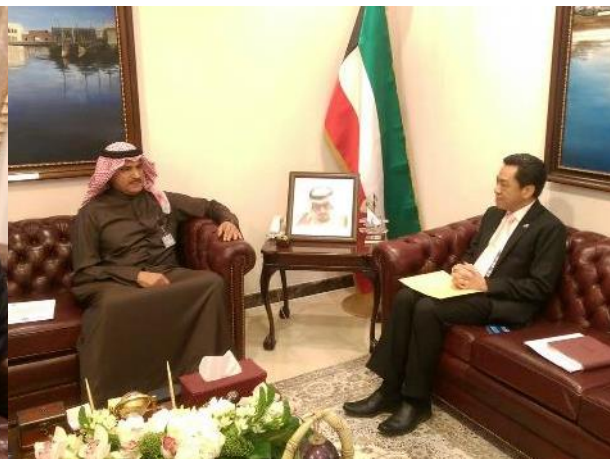
*Ambassador Dato' Ahmad Rozian met with Mr. Kamel Al Abdu Jalil, General Manager of the National Library of Kuwait on 21 January 2016*



*Ambassador Dato' Ahmad Rozian met with Madam Nadia Jassim Al-Wazan, Acting Secretary General of the Kuwait National Commission for UNESCO on 27 January 2016*



*On 16 February 2016, Ambassador Dato' Ahmad Rozian met with Mr. Naser Abdullah Al-Hayen, Acting Assistant Foreign Minister for Intentional Organisations*



*Ambassador Dato' Ahmad Rozian met with Ambassador Dhari Ajran Al-Ajran, Assistant Foreign Minister for Protocol Affairs on 24 February 2016*



*On 28 February 2016, Ambassador Dato' Ahmad Rozian met with Professor Dr. Husain Al-Ansari, President of Kuwait University*



*Ambassador Dato' Ahmad Rozian met with Mr. Fuad Al-Aoun, Assistant Undersecretary for Operations and Maintenance, Ministry of Electricity and Water of Kuwait on 3 March 2016*



*On 10 March 2016, Ambassador Dato' Ahmad Rozian met with Mr. Abdullah A. Al-Sharhan, Chief Executive Officer of Kuwait Airways*



*With Dr. Faisal Al-Mutairi, Counsellor of the Asian Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kuwait, 15 March 2016*



*With Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Oumi, Head of Economic Section, Legal Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kuwait, 15 March 2016*



*Ambassador Dato' Ahmad Rozian in discussion with Ambassador Dhari Ajan Al-Ajan, Assistant Foreign Minister for Protocol Affairs on 15 March 2016*

## Visits to Malaysian Business Interests



On 3 March 2016, Ambassador Dato' Ahmad Rozian visited the Shuaiba North Co-Generation (Power & Distillation) Plant. The plant is jointly operated and maintained by Kharafi National and TNB REMACO, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB)

## ASEAN ACTIVITIES IN KUWAIT

The ASEAN Committee in Kuwait (ACK) comprises the respective Ambassadors of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.



ACK Ambassadors' Meeting, 21 January 2016



*4<sup>th</sup> ACK Futsal Tournament, Al-Qadsia Sports Club, 18 March 2016*

*ACK Ambassadors' Visit to Kuwait Oil Company, 23 March 2016*



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## **HIGHLIGHTS OF EVENTS WITH THE MALAYSIAN COMMUNITY & MALAYSIAN STUDENTS**

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*Malaysian Association Kuwait (MAK) Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2016, 4 March 2016. The Embassy congratulates Mr. Romizi Zaini for being elected MAK President for 2016 and we wish him and his executive committee all the very best for 2016*



*Dialogue Session, Lunch and Short Malaysian Film Screening with MAK EXCO and Malaysian students in Kuwait, 4 March 2016*



*MAK Get-together with the Malaysian Community, 11 March 2016*

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## *Embassy of Malaysia Bids Farewell to an Officer and Welcomes Another*

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*The Embassy of Malaysia bids farewell to Counsellor Yap Wei Sin (4<sup>th</sup> from left, seated) and his family. He completed his assignment in Kuwait on 31 March 2016. The Embassy also welcomes Muhammad Nur Anuar Nordin (3<sup>rd</sup> from right, seated) who arrived in Kuwait on 24 March 2016 to assume the post of Second Secretary*

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU

The Embassy of Malaysia is pleased to introduce this new section, to allow the Malaysian community in Kuwait to get better acquainted with officials from the Embassy, as well as members of the Malaysian community. Any member of the Malaysian community is welcomed to submit admissions with pictures (1 to 2 pages in MSWord format) to [mwkuwait@kln.gov.my](mailto:mwkuwait@kln.gov.my) under the header (MWKUWAIT ENEWSLETTER READER SUBMISSION). The Embassy may make minor editorial amendments to submissions. We look forward to hearing from you.

### *Norhayati Salim*



#### **Kuwait, here I come!**

The process of moving to another country is often accompanied by a myriad of emotions. While it is typical to experience feelings of joy, excitement and anticipation when making the leap abroad, it is also common to feel fear, anxiety, a culture shock and isolation. Facing challenges while adapting, can make even the most eager expatriate feel doubtful about their choice. And that ongoing swirl of excitement and anxiety can last for some time.

Did I make the right choice, by moving to Kuwait? Yes, definitely yes!

It all began in 2000, when a phone call to a Kuwaiti friend, whom I was requesting some help from to do business in Muscat (Oman), led to a golden opportunity. He immediately asked me, “Why don’t you try Kuwait? There’s this new company here looking for a team to run their business.” Now, I’ve visited Kuwait for a number of times before, for Sales visits and Travel Expos, promoting ‘Malaysia as the Summer Vacation Destination’. It was part of my routine, to travel all over the Middle East ‘selling’ Malaysia. My knowledge of Kuwait then, was limited to it being a small state with huge coffers.

Being the youngest child and a single lady, many questions kept buzzing in my head - why should I accept the job offer? Can I cope with the new, foreign working environment? For how long should I remain there? Is it a safe city? Ooh...there were so many more questions!



After giving much thought to the idea and getting a nod from my family, I finally accepted 'the Job' in the Middle East. Kuwait was the destination waiting for me. I packed my suitcase, took a risk and landed safely in this unknown territory.

I knew nothing of the Company and no other person besides my Kuwaiti friend. Oh, I was alone! As the thought slowly sank in my head, I had totally forgotten about the Malaysian Embassy. I would commute from my flat to my office by bus or taxi and stop by the Mini Market for food and drinks. That was my daily routine. That was it. This mundane lifestyle lasted for almost 9 months before I decided that it was enough for me! I obtained a driver's license which enabled me to drive around a little. Unfortunately, the left-hand drive feature was awkward and to make matters worse I wasn't familiar with the roads. I had to use the city map for directions. I would often get lost, but discovered new interesting places. I will never forget those early days.

### **Mashaer Hajj & Umrah Services. ( 2000-2016)**

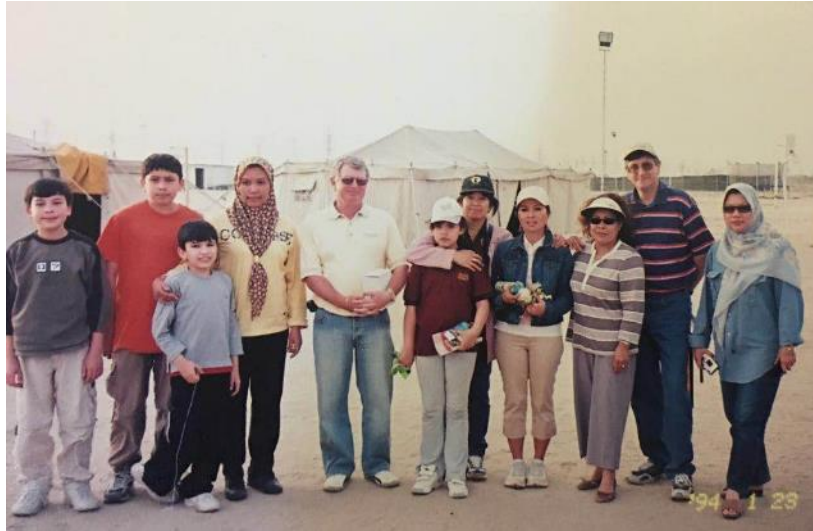
As I stepped into the office on the first day of work, I was actually stepping into the world with a brand new image. The company was involved in the hospitality business specializing in the Hajj & Umrah services. I was expected to dress appropriately, and so I started to wear the 'hijab'. "Alhamdulillah".

I had 15 years of skill and experience in the Hotel & Tourism industry, but I'd never done Hajj or Umrah. I was as green to the field as my employer was. However, I was confident that I could face the challenges ahead and prove my capabilities of being the sole female Head of Department who would be reporting directly to the Kuwaiti directors. The office was being dominated by male employees from various nationalities but I was given the respect and cooperation by all of them. As a leader, I had passed on my knowledge and experience to them and gave them guidance and encouragement. Hopefully, they too would become good leaders in the future. At

times, we would get into misunderstandings but we got over them, and we were able to work harmoniously together for almost 16 years.

Back in the beginning, one of the things that would become a topic of conversations was my origin. No one seemed to be able to guess my nationality. Typically, people would think that I was either, a Filipino or a Chinese or an Indonesia or even perhaps a Nepalese – really? What a joke! I had to introduce myself clearly to my colleagues, suppliers & clients, “My name is Norhayati Salim and I am from Malaysia.”

### **Malaysians in Kuwait**



One day, I decided to call the Malaysian Embassy and to my surprise, they remembered me from a workshop I attended in Kuwait. I accepted their invitation to a “Majlis Doa Selamat” and it was there that I first met our small Malaysian community and of course, satisfied my cravings for Malaysian food. Bonds of friendship were made and soon some of us became good, close friends. You need these ties otherwise you will end up living in isolation, boredom and no one to turn to for companionship, conversations, help or advice.



I actively participate in the activities organized by the community, by joining the Perwakilan (under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and the Malaysian Association of Kuwait, 'MAK'. I was once elected as President of MAK and used to serve as an 'Exco' a few terms. I was more than glad to be able to busy myself with activities and avoid feeling bored, in addition to giving my full support to the associations.

### **Farewell my friends, farewell Kuwait**

From the start, I had made a promise to myself that I should obtain a secure income and manage it well for use in times of need or difficulties before returning home for good. I am contented and proud of my achievements thus far despite my lack of paper qualifications. All my work and life experiences have made me a committed, strong and confident person. I am truly grateful for all the Blessings from ALLAH, "Alhamdulillah".

Well now, I have decided to return home for good. To my fellow Malaysians who are new to Kuwait, face the challenges with an open heart. Work hard, stay focused and committed to your responsibilities. In shaa ALLAH, you will succeed. Let's prove to the world the superior quality and integrity of the people of our nation.

The last 16 years have been amazing and fulfilling for me. To all those whom I had worked alongside with at Mashaer and my friends and family here in Kuwait, I am sad to leave and I will never forget you. Thank you.

### *Yasin Yap & Family*

A wise man once shared with me, when doing farewells, K.I.S.S.



As in "Keep It Short & Simple". We were privileged to have been assigned to Kuwait in July 2013, after three years in Manila. We arrived at the peak of summer, with the heat when the airport doors opened forever seared in our memories. Fortunately, our (almost) three years in this oil-soaked Sheikdom was as cool and breezy as Marina Crescent in February.



Thank you Ambassador Dato' Adnan Haji Othman, Datin Azlinda Rosli and their family for making our settling in, both professionally and personally, as smooth as hummus. We will hold the wisdom shared and lessons learnt close to our hearts for a long time.

Our heartfelt appreciation also to Ambassador Dato' Ahmad Rozian Abd. Ghani and his family for continuing to guide and educate us on life in the foreign service.

We have been lucky to have worked under two wonderful Ambassadors during our time in Kuwait. We can only pray for the same when we return to the mothership in Putrajaya.

Thank you too to Mr. Rafeeq Razali, Mr. Noor Habibollah and Puan Hafizah, as well as Mr. Faizi, Puan Fauziah and Tuan Haji Bakar for your hard work, support and fellowship.



An enormous thank you and virtual hug to the Malaysian community for your friendship, especially to the lovely Malaysian ladies who have made Lin's time here a delightful experience.



To everyone whose paths have crossed with ours in Kuwait, please accept our apologies if your sensitivities were offended in any way by our words or deeds. We certainly owe our apologies to our neighbour below, who have had to endure our boy's late night ruckuses on far too often an occasion.

Goodbyes today are rarely permanent. We have email and social media. Don't hesitate to get in touch if the urge arises, Facebook or [wilyap81@gmail.com](mailto:wilyap81@gmail.com).

Yasin, Lin, Elyaz & Ezra  
31 March 2016

## EMBASSY OF MALAYSIA PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 2016

NO	HOLIDAY	DATE	DAY	MALAYSIA / KUWAIT
1	Chinese New Year	8 and 9 February	Monday and Tuesday	Malaysia
2	Kuwait National Day	25 February	Thursday	Kuwait
3	Kuwait Liberation Day *	26 February	Friday	Kuwait
4	Labour Day	1 May	Sunday	Malaysia / Kuwait
5	Isra' Mikraj	5 May	Thursday	Kuwait
6	Wesak Day	21 May	Saturday	Malaysia
7	Birthday of SPB YDP Agong	4 June	Saturday	Malaysia
8	Hari Raya Aidil Fitri **	6 and 7 July	Wednesday and Thursday	Malaysia / Kuwait
9	Malaysia National Day	31 August	Wednesday	Malaysia
10	Arafah Day **	11 September	Sunday	Kuwait
11	Hari Raya Aidil Adha **	12 and 13 September	Monday and Tuesday	Malaysia / Kuwait
12	Malaysia Day *	16 September	Friday	Malaysia
13	Maal Hijrah	2 October	Sunday	Malaysia / Kuwait
14	Deepavali **	29 October	Saturday	Malaysia
15	Maulidur Rasul	12 December	Monday	Malaysia / Kuwait
16	Christmas	25 December	Sunday	Malaysia

**Note:**

1. Public holidays which fall on a Friday are not replaced by the next working day.
2. Public holidays which fall on a Saturday is carried forward to the next working day.
3. (\*) Observed only