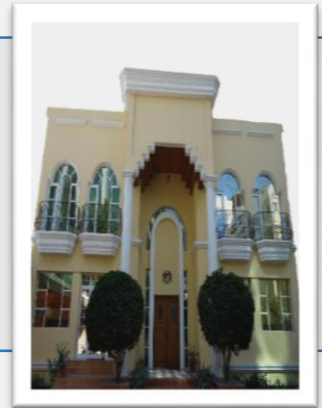




# MANAMA CONNECTS



## MESSAGE BY THE AMBASSADOR

*"I am humbled yet stunningly delighted to present to you the first ever issue of the Manama Connects."*

Marhaba, or welcome to Bahrain for the first half-yearly e-Newsletter, entitled "Manama Connects". This is the Embassy of Malaysia's inaugural effort to reach out to the practitioners and masses-at-large of international relations and diplomacy, as well as to create an interactive and communicative social media platform for sharing information in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain. It further represents part of the Embassy's worldwide network effort to connect and supplement to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia's outreach programmes and activities. This publication will be disseminated through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' World Wide Web, ([www.kln.gov.my](http://www.kln.gov.my)) and also via the Embassy's social media platforms, such as email at [mwmanama.kln@1govuc.gov.my](mailto:mwmanama.kln@1govuc.gov.my), Facebook and Instagram.

Manama Connects is divided into various segments. It will highlight several key statements, speeches and activities, including the Government of Malaysia's policies and transformational initiatives, as well as events that were organised by the Embassy. Furthermore, it will showcase a number of activities conducted by the Malaysian Government-linked companies (GLCs) and the Malaysian Club of Bahrain (MCB).

In this maiden issue, the inauguration of the Bahrain and Malaysia Business and Friendship Society (BMBFS) is the theme chosen to be the historic and landmark achievement of the Embassy on 21 June 2016 thus far. It is indeed a timely consideration to advance the initiative to boost Malaysia and Bahrain bilateral ties to new and greater heights of cooperation and collaborations in the areas of *halal* industries, building materials, medical devices, furniture, wood-based products, rubber-based products as well as services such as construction, engineering, oil and gas, Islamic finance and banking, integrated waste management, franchise and management consultancy, to name a few.

On behalf of the Embassy of Malaysia in the Kingdom of Bahrain, I sincerely hope you will enjoy what the Manama Connects brings to you in this inaugurated issue and enthusiastically its future issues. I also welcome comments and contributions from all readers. Above all, together, we can facilitate the Embassy and the Ministry reach out to the world as true leaders and champions.

Thank you. Have great fun reading!

**Ambassador Dato' Ahmad Shahizan  
Abd Samad**

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# Monthly Assembly



### Master of Ceremony (M.C)

- January - Mr. Samer
- February - Ms. Balqees
- March - Mr. Shooja
- April - Ms. Khadija
- May - Mr. Ahmed
- June - Ms. Doris

### Speakers (LRS)

- January - Ms. Khadija
- February - Mr. Sunil
- March - Ms. Doris
- April - Mr. Shooja
- May - Ms. Balqees
- June - Mr. Buddiman

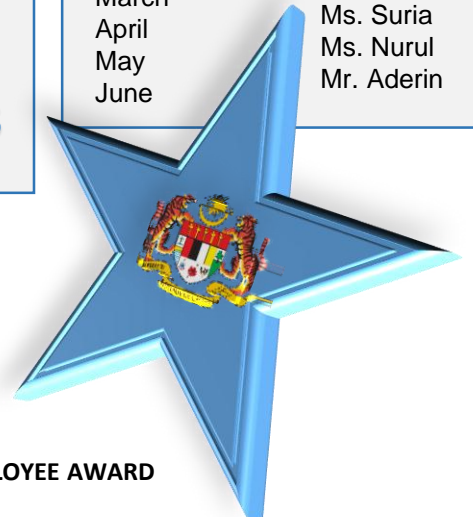
### Critics (HBS)

- January - Ms. Suria
- February - Ms. Nurul
- March - Mr. Aderin
- April - Ms. Suria
- May - Ms. Nurul
- June - Mr. Aderin

# Star Employee Awards



Mr. Shooja Hamed  
Star Employee Recipient  
Q1 (Jan – March)



Mr. Buddiman Limbu  
Star Employee Recipient  
Q2 (April – June)

### THE RATIONALE ~ STAR EMPLOYEE AWARD

The **Star Employee Award** programme was illustriously introduced in January 2015 to recognize and reward individuals of the Home-Based (HBS) and Locally-Recruited Staff (LRS) of the Embassy on a quarterly-basis, for demonstrating exemplary performance and contributions not only to the Embassy of Malaysia in Bahrain, but to its national interests abroad as well.

In acknowledging this exceptional accomplishment, the Star Employee Recipient will be given some recognizable tokens, such as the Certificate of Excellence, Cash Award of BD20.000 (RM220.00) and Individual Photo-to-be-Displayed on the Wall-of-Fame of the Chancery of the Embassy.

***“Our achievements have been based on three solid, inter-related principles: innovation, sustainability and inclusivity.”***

YAB Dato’ Sri Najib Tun Razak  
(May 2016)

# Ambassador's Quotes

“ If we fear to take leadership role, then don't ever dream of being world leaders and world beaters. ”



Courtesy call and visit by TELEKOM Malaysia's Team from the Dubai Regional Office, U.A.E., led by Mr. Raymund Xavier on H.E. Ambassador Shahizan at the Embassy of Malaysia in Bahrain on 21 April 2016



H.E. Ambassador of Malaysia's visit and courtesy call on Professor Dr. Sameer Otoom, President of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland (RCSI) at the Medical University of Bahrain on 30 June 2016



Inauguration of the B2B International Businesswomen's Forum at the Four Seasons Hotel, Bahrain on 28 - 30 March 2016, represented by an internationally acclaimed The Iron Lady of Malaysia, H.E. Datuk Wira Dr. Maznah Hamid



15th Anniversary of CIBAFI Forum at the Four Seasons Hotel in Bahrain on 3 - 4 May 2016 with H.E. Ambassador Shahizan presented his Talk on Malaysia's leading and leadership role in Islamic finance, banking and insurance



4<sup>th</sup> EDUTEX 2016 Official Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony by H.E. Ambassador of Malaysia at the Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Centre (BIECC) on 22 March 2016



Bahrain International CSR and Sustainability Conference 2016 Opening Ceremony and Keynote Address by H.E. Dr. Abdul Hussain Mirza, Minister of Electricity and Water (EWA) at the Intercontinental Regency, Bahrain on 6 - 7 April 2016



Dr. Deepak Chopra's Live Event on The Future of Well-Being at the Crowne Plaza, Bahrain on 11 April 2016 with Special Guests-of-Honour of the Ambassadors of India and Malaysia



50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Rotary Service Club of the Kingdom of Bahrain and Gala Dinner at the Sofitel Zallaq Thalassa SEA & SPA, Bahrain on 21 January 2016



Professor Dr. Tony Buzan's Mind Mapping Seminar at the Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain on 18 January 2016 with the presence of the Guest-of-Honour, H.E. Ambassador of Malaysia to the Kingdom of Bahrain



H.M. King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa received H.E. Ambassador Dato' Shahizan at Sakhir Palace, Bahrain at a Ramadan Majlis with Diplomats, who wished him good health and happiness to continue leading Bahrain's development and reform progress on 9 June 2016

# Events & Visits



Re-visit of PETRONAS LNG Limited on Global Marketing Team led by Mr. Ezhar Yazid Jaafar with a Courtesy Call on the CEO of National Oil and Gas Authority (NOGA) in Bahrain on 26 January 2016



National Mosque Grand Imam Tan Sri Sheikh Ismail Muhammad representing Malaysia as one of the International Judges at the Al Quran Recital International Competition in Bahrain on June 2016



H.E. Ambassador Shahizan had exchanged of ideas with H.E. Tony Blair, Former British Prime Minister on the Opportunities and Challenges Facing the Middle East in Manama, Bahrain on 1 March 2016



4<sup>th</sup> Bahrain International Airshow (BIAS) 2016 at the Sakhir Air Base, Kingdom of Bahrain on 21 January 2016 as the most elite business-to-business event on the global airshow calendar



Luncheon Meeting with Julie's Malaysia Marketing Managing Director, Mr. Yeap Kok Sim at the P.F. Chang of the Bahrain City Centre (BCC) on 2 March 2016



Manama : Citing Malaysian companies' strong presence in the Kingdom, Malaysian envoy to the Kingdom Ambassador Shahizan said that the recent Bahrain F1 race winner bear the logo of PETRONAS, the Malaysian oil giant.

“I want to bring the best to Bahrain from our country. If I can bring Datuk Wira Dr. Maznah Hamid along with the investors associated with the waste treatment plant, it will be a big boost for Bahrain. They can make an extraordinary difference in the Kingdom,” he remarked.

According to the Ambassador, Malaysian investors can bring quality changes in the Kingdom's tourism sector. “The Halal industry can also be developed in a big way here.” He is hopeful that Gulf Air will resume direct flights between Bahrain and Malaysia by April 2018.

Speaking at the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CIBAFI Global Forum, H.E. Ambassador Shahizan highlighted some of the major achievements of Islamic finance in Malaysia that has continued to demonstrate dynamic growth of Islamic financial system supported by robust regulatory, legal and Shariah governance frameworks, diverse players, and skilled talent and expertise.



On the total banking system, Islamic finance has emerged as a major component of the overall financial system in Malaysia accounted for RM685 billion representing 26.8 percent. In fact, Islamic finance has been rigorously promoted by more than 40 financial institutions, thus offering more than 100 Islamic financial products.

Furthermore at the global front, Ambassador Shahizan reiterated that Malaysia has become a preferred Islamic finance marketplace for *Sukuk* issuance of USD34.8 billion as well as the multi-currency *Sukuk*

market with issuance dominated in the US Dollar, Singapore Dollar and Renminbi in 2015.

In concluding his talk, Ambassador Shahizan has suggested for the Ummah Community worldwide to strongly support and make Malaysia the leading Islamic financial, banking and insurance institutions, to which Malaysia will ultimately share and empower the Community of global Ummah towards sustainable and healthy growth of the Islamic finance business and entrepreneurship.



H.E. Ambassador Dato' Ahmad Shahizan Abd Samad expressed his concern regarding Malaysian investments in Bahrain being delayed by red tape. He revealed Malaysian investment was stalled due to "a clear lack of co-ordination" between Bahraini government agencies.

He was speaking to the **GDN** on the sidelines of the Third Consultative Meeting of the Bahrain Asian Traders Committee (BATC) at the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI), in Sanabis, Kingdom of Bahrain.



Speaking to **Malay Mail** at his residence in Manama, H.E. Ambassador Dato' Shahizan warned that potential foreign investors could look to deal with neighbouring countries such as Qatar and UAE with easier business access facilities than Bahrain.

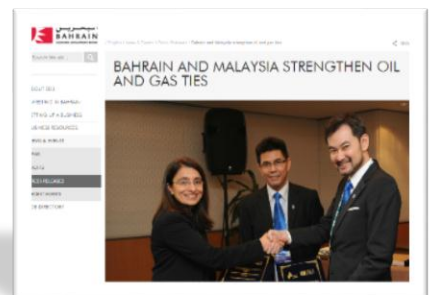
Further delay in Malaysian investment proposals in Bahrain worth hundreds of millions of dinars can put these projects in jeopardy.

## Newspaper Clipping



**The Bahrain Economic Development Board (EDB)** and the Malaysia Petroleum Resources Corporation (MPRC) have signed an MOU to promote cooperation and explore opportunities in the oil & gas sectors. Bahrain and Malaysia have a history of firm bilateral relations and engagement on a variety of economic and strategic fronts.

A number of Malaysian financial institutions, such as Malayan Banking Berhad (Maybank) and CIMB have offices in Bahrain. Malaysian construction companies have also performed well in Bahrain with high profile projects, including the Formula One circuit, the North Manama corridor project, the Shaikh Khalifa Bin Salman Highway, and the Bahrain City Centre.





1. Mother & Children Welfare Bazaar 2016
2. Poco-poco Dance with YBhg. Datuk Wira Maznah
3. Morning Coffee hosted by YBhg. Datin Norhayati

## PERWAKILAN MANAMA



First Meeting of BMBFS



On the occasion of the inaugural launching of the Bahrain Malaysia Business and Friendship Society (BMBFS), H.E Ambassador Shahizan has extended his profound and heartiest congratulations to the President and the dynamic Founding Members of BMBFS. He further underpinned the phenomenal achievement of BMBF and, thus, it has created history to this endeavour.

Cognizance of its future challenges, Ambassador Shahizan has put to task to the Founding Members of BMBFS the following issues, viz.,

To boost the total trade volume between Malaysia and Bahrain from USD211 million in 2015 to USD2 billion by 2020;

To intensify the numbers of Bahraini tourists to Malaysia from 8,000 in 2015 to 50,000 by 2020;

To increase the numbers of Bahraini students studying in Malaysia from 300 to 2,500 students by 2020;

To inaugurate a Chapter of the BMBFS institution in Malaysia as the Malaysia Bahrain Business Council (MBBC) by end of the year 2016; and

To establish a Twin-Cities historical landmark between Manama and Malacca as the world monarchy heritage and civilisation.

# ASEAN COMMUNITY



## Fun Facts about ASEAN

**5** ASEAN's Embassy in Kingdom of Bahrain

- Malaysia
- Indonesia
- Thailand
- Brunei
- Philippines

**3** ASEAN's Games Organized since 2012

**120,000**

ASEAN Community living and working in the Kingdom of Bahrain.



# Malaysian Club of Bahrain

MCB is a non-profit and non-political organisation and is open to all Malaysians residing in Bahrain. MCB has carried several activities, including Desert Camping, ASEAN Games 2012, 2013 and 2015 etc. In 2016, MCB will introduce a few new activities such as bowling, futsal, badminton, table tennis and so forth.



MCB's Executive Committee Members for the year 2016/2017



MCB's IFTAR 2016



MCB's Desert Camping – 22 January 2016



MCB's Sport Day 2016

## Upcoming Events July – Dec 2016



MALAYSIA DAY 16 SEPT 2016



- 1. PMRM Program 2016
- 2. ASEAN DAY 2016
- 3. National Day 2016
- 4. National Sports Day 2016
- 5. Malaysia Day 2016
- 6. Eidul Fitri 2016
- 7. Eid Al Adha 2016



# Announcement



New Mobile Apps  
01 August 2016



New PA to Amb.  
19 June 2016



Eid Mubarak 2016  
06 July 2016



Farewell Ms. Suria  
24 June 2016



Outgoing Officer  
19 August 2016

## BEST WISHES

To our colleagues celebrating their birthday in Jan – June 2016, we wish you all the best.

- Jan – Ambassador Shahizan, YBhg. Datin Nor Hayati, Ms. Khadija
- March – Ms. Nurul Huda, Mr. Buddiman
- May – Mr. Ahmed Semaikh, Mr. Shooja
- June – Ms. Balqeas



## ANNOUNCEMENT

### ILLUSTRATION OF PROPER USE OF TITLES AND AWARDS: Under the Penal Code (Act 574) of the Laws of Malaysia

The Government of Malaysia recognises and has gazetted the honorific titles and awards that were given to individuals, such as Dato', Dato' Seri, A.M.N. (*Ahli Mangku Negara*), etc., thus adhering to Article 38 and 181 of the Malaysian Federal Constitution.

However, should one claim to receive a title or award from any institution that is neither recognised nor sovereign, be it locally or foreign, it is illegitimate. As such, under Section 416 and 419 of the Penal Code of the Laws of Malaysia, committing such crimes to manipulate, cheat, impersonate and corrupt others would be punished with imprisonment up to seven years or with fine or with both.

**Embassy of Malaysia**  
MANAMA, KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN  
30 June 2016.



## HBS AND LRS OF EMBASSY

**Ambassador Dato' Ahmad Shahizan Abd Samad**  
Malaysia Ambassador of Malaysia to  
the Kingdom of Bahrain

**Ms. Nurul Huda Ab. Rahim**  
Second Secretary / Head of Chancery

**Mr. Mohd Aderin Azi Mohd Uzir**  
Third Secretary

**Ms. Fuziah Ahmad**  
PA to Ambassador

**Mr. Ahmad Semaikh**  
Translator

**Ms. Doris Samson**  
Account Assistant

**Mr. Samer Fateel**  
Consular Assistant

**Ms. Balqees Maki**  
Administration Assistant

**Ms. Khadija Zaid Awaji**  
Receptionist

**Mr. Shooja Hamid**  
Ambassador Driver

**Mr. Sunil D'sauza**  
Office Messenger / Driver

**Mr. Buddiman Limbu**  
Caretaker

**Ms. Prava Tripathi**  
Office Cleaner



Any suggestion please e-mail at  
[mwmanama.kln@1govuc.gov.my](mailto:mwmanama.kln@1govuc.gov.my)

## OUR DIPLOMATIC MILESTONES



The diplomatic relations between Malaysia and the Kingdom of Bahrain was established on 25 November 1974. Malaysia was among the first country to recognise the independence of Bahrain and thus far the bilateral ties of both countries have been warm, close and cordial.

With the opening of the Embassy of Malaysia in Bahrain on 16 September 2003, this has further consolidated the bilateral relations between the two countries, strengthening their international stature as the progressive, inclusive, modern and moderate Islamic nation-states.

Moving forward towards its Vision 2020, the Embassy of Malaysia in Bahrain will continue to play a leadership and dynamic role in advancing strong bilateral relations with Bahrain in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres. As the Embassy will celebrate its 46<sup>th</sup> Diplomatic Relations in 2020, it will further deepen the focus on Malaysia and Bahrain aspects of connectivity. In this regard, it will enhance the people-to-people connectivity such as visits; the institutional connectivity, in particular the Islamic finance, banking and insurance as well as services sector; and the physical connectivity to consider resuming its suspended direct air links between Kuala Lumpur and Manama, among others.

### Editorial Committee

Patron : Ambassador Dato' Ahmad Shahizan  
Chief Editor : Nurul Huda

Editorial Team : Mohd Aderin Azi, Ahmed Semaikh

Contributor : Fuziah, Samer, Doris, Balqees,  
Khadija, Shooja, Sunil, Buddiman