



MESSAGE FROM THE AMBASSADOR OF MALAYSIA TO THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN



*Marhaba from the Pearl of the
Arabic Gulf!*

The second edition of the Manama Connects focused more on the Embassy's activities and events that were organized or co-organized by Malaysia.

The highlight of it has to be the ASEAN Games 2016 series, which

we had initiated in 2012, with only football tournament being competed. It then continued in 2013 and took a break in 2014, due to unforeseen circumstances. In 2015, the ASEAN Games was expanded to football and bowling, whilst this year, we had every resident Embassy in Bahrain to co-organized a game, namely bowling, badminton, volleyball, table tennis and football, with its community being in the forefront.

As we usher in the New Year, I have full confidence that the Embassy of Malaysia in the Kingdom of Bahrain will further progress and prosper to the greatest heights of achievements and successes. All activities and events lined up throughout this year, especially in the second

half of the year has been skewed towards elevating the bilateral relations between Malaysia and Bahrain which unfortunately, has reviewed relatively close and cordial since 2011.

Having said that, I must also credit the Team Malaysia at the Embassy for their hard work, teamwork, esprit de corp, and dedication in achieving Malaysia's foreign policy objective, specifically in the Kingdom.

Thank you & Best Wishes for 2017!

**Ambassador Dato' Ahmad Shahizan
Abd Samad**

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STAR EMPLOYEE AWARDS 2016

➤ JULY – SEPTEMBER (Q3)



Ms. Doris Samson

- Finance Clerk
- Served since 19 March 2005
- Professional aim: “To give the best and serve the Embassy to the fullest that I can”.

➤ OCTOBER – DECEMBER (Q4)



Ms. Khadijah Awachi

- Receptionist
- Served since 16 Nov. 2014
- Professional aim: “Everyday is a opportunity to innovate and create.”

FLAG RAISING OF THE JALUR GEMILANG IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE 59TH NATIONAL DAY

The Embassy of Malaysia in the Kingdom of Bahrain held the flag raising of the Jalur Gemilang in conjunction with Malaysia’s 59th National Day Celebration on 31 August 2016, at the Chancery of the Embassy in Seef District, Manama from 3.30pm to 4.30pm.

His Highness Shaikh Daij bin Isa Al-Khalifa, the President of the Bahrain Malaysia Business and Friendship Society (BMBFS) was the Guest-of-Honour during the said event.

The ceremony commenced with the Bahraini’s National Anthem. Negaraku whilst the Jalur Gemilang was being raised, followed by group photo. The event then proceed indoors, for singing of the patriotic Jalur Gemilang song, welcoming remarks by H.E. Ambassador, cake

cutting and concluded with inaugural launching of the Embassy’s e-Newsletter – Manama Connects, which was the highlight of the day.

Impact of the event:

- Strengthening Malaysia-Bahrain relations and foster closer cooperation with Bahrainis and Malaysians, especially with the business circles and members of the media.
- Instilling the spirit of nationalism, patriotism and sense of identity amongst Malaysians in Bahrain.
- Keeping abreast on the current developments in Malaysia and the host country and to obtain feedbacks on issues that are important to them.
- Gathering and updating information of Malaysians in Bahrain.

H.H. Shaikh Daij Al Khalifa, President of the Bahrain Malaysia Business and Friendship Society (BMBFS) with H.E. Ambassador Shahizan and other guests during the ceremony.



HARI RAYA AIDILADHA CELEBRATION AT RUMAH MALAYSIA

The Ambassador of Malaysia and Home Based Staff (HBS) in the Kingdom of Bahrain hosted a Hari Raya Aidiladha gathering on 12 September 2016, at RUMAH Malaysia in Al Jasra, Manama from 12.00pm to 2.30pm. A total of 65 foreigners and 150 Malaysians attended the event.

The event was held in two (2) sessions, whereby the first session was allocated for foreign guests and diplomats. Amongst the attendees during the day were the Ambassadors and spouses of the

United Kingdom, Republic of China, Russia, Japan, India, Republic of Korea, Turkey, and all the four (4) ASEAN Ambassadors in Bahrain. Non-resident diplomats, especially from the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia, i.e., Norway and South Africa were also present.

The evening session was especially dedicated to Malaysians residing in Bahrain, which were made up of professionals, businessmen, media representatives, Embassy's staff as well as their respective family members.



Welcoming the Heads of Foreign Missions from Russia and Turkey in Bahrain to RUMAH Malaysia.

A feel of togetherness and nationalism filled the air on the day, which were genuinely portrayed by the attitudes of all guests who not only came for the food, but to experience the rear opportunity of the Malaysian ambience and atmosphere in a foreign land, organized by the Embassy.



With Malaysians from all walks of life enjoying the moments with the scrumptious Malaysian cuisines at the outdoor foyer of RUMAH Malaysia.

NATIONAL SPORTS DAY 2016

The Embassy of Malaysia Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain and the Malaysian Club of Bahrain (MCB) jointly organized the second series of the Hari Sukan Negara 2016 gathering on 8 October 2016, at the Main Indoor Stadium of the Al-Muharraq Sports Club in Muharraq, Manama. True spirit of sportsmanship was clearly demonstrated throughout the event whereby all guests were seen with huge smiles

on their faces and enjoying themselves while burning calories. A feel of togetherness and friendship filled the air on the day.



(Picture L) Towards creating a healthy and balanced lifestyle in line with Malaysia's aspiration to be a Developed Sporting Nation by 2020.

(Picture Top Right) H.E. Ambassador Shahizan and YBhg. Datin Nor Hayati led the Malaysians in aerobics session before the start of the Open Sports events.



COURTESY CALL BY *PARTI ISLAM SE-MALAYSIA (PAS) – DEWAN PEMUDA*

On 24 December 2016, the Embassy of Malaysia in the Kingdom of Bahrain received a delegation from *Parti Islam Se-Malaysia (PAS) – Dewan Pemuda*, led by *Ketua Dewan Pemuda PAS*, YB Tuan Ustaz Haji Nik Mohammad Abduh Nik Abdul Aziz, who is also the Member of Parliament for Pasir Mas, Kelantan.

He was accompanied by his *Timbalan Ketua Dewan Pemuda PAS*, Ir. Hj. Khairil Nizam Khirudin and

also YBr.s. Ustaz Halim Din, IKIM and TV Al-Hijrah media representative.

H.E. Ambassador Shahizan emphasized the view that it is important to continue and constructively engage with these political parties, be it with the Government and the Oppositions alike, such as PAS. His Excellency further reiterated the fact that Malaysians in Bahrain particularly have shown their true spirits of



H.E. Ambassador with the PAS' delegation during their visit to the Embassy of Malaysia in Manama.

nationalism and thus continue to promote positive image of the country as well as at the same time respect for democracy and rules of law of the Kingdom.

CALISTHENICS WORLD CUP 2016

Team Barragazz, a five (5) person team from Malaysia participated in the Calisthenics World Cup 2016, under the patronage of H.H. Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, at the Art Rotana, Amwaj on 2-3 December 2016. The Malaysian team won the World title, beating Spain, the United Kingdom and Brunei Darussalam.

Calisthenics is a consistent staple in nearly all-physical disciplines and has proven merit through the test of time. Exploring the roots of formal exercise, the strength and conditioning through the use of bodyweight alone is traced back to ancient Greece. By definition, 'calisthenics' is Greek for "beautiful strength". (Definition from World Calisthenics Org.)

The Kingdom of Bahrain first organized the event on 12-13 November 2015. Teams of five (5) from eight (8) countries competed for a USD 10,000 prize, which is the largest winnings in any calisthenics events, including the Battle of the Bars, which is the

first/original calisthenics event organized by the World Calisthenics Organization.



(Picture 1) *H.E. Ambassador of Malaysia with Team Barragazz during the prize giving ceremony.*

(Picture 2) *The young athletes were also celebrated by local media and featured in the Malaysian media upon their arrival in KLIA.*

(Picture 3) *The Malaysian community with the Malaysian team at the Calisthenics World Cup 2016.*

ASEAN GAMES 2016

Under the patronage of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain, the ASEAN Community in Manama successfully held the ASEAN Games 2016, which saw Bowling, Badminton, Volleyball, Table Tennis and Football events being alternately hosted by the five (5) ASEAN Embassies residing in the Kingdom in close collaboration with its respective community clubs and societies.

Bowling

The series of ASEAN Games began with bowling tournament, hosted by Brunei Darussalam, held at Funland Centre on 23 September 2016. Three teams from each country will be contesting in the



game under three different categories – Team Event, Singles and Doubles.

Badminton

On 21 October 2016, the Philippines hosted and successfully organised the Badminton tournament of the ASEAN Games series, at the Al Muharraq Sports Club. Four (4) out of the five (5) ASEAN Embassies in Bahrain took



part in the inaugural event, since the inception of ASEAN Games in 2012 that only involves football and bowling. Thailand pulled out of the tournament due to the mourning period of all Thais of the recent demise of H.M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej on 13 October 2016. During the half-day tournament, the Malaysian team managed to place 2nd after the Philippines.

Table Tennis

The table tennis series was hosted by Indonesia on 4 November 2016, held at the National Stadium, Isa Town. A total of 64 players from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines participated in the tournament, which the Thais decided to sit-out from, in view of the national mourning. World class performance was shown from national players from Malaysia and the Philippines in the man's singles event, which saw Team Philippines won the championship with a total score of 16 points, while the second and third places went to Malaysia and Indonesia respectively.

Volleyball

Pursuant to the demise of the late King

Bhumibol, the volleyball tournament was co-hosted by Malaysia and Thailand on 25th November



2016, at the Muharraq Sports Club. It was participated by all five ASEAN countries and received high-level attendance by representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bahrain, led by the Undersecretary for International Affairs, Dr. Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa.

Football

The closing event for ASEAN Games 2016 was the football tournament,



which was held on 2 and 9 December 2016, organized by Malaysia at the Al Ahli Sports Club.

The league tournament saw the Malaysian team was beaten by the mighty Thais in the finale, which was graced by H.E. Dr. Dhafer Al Omran, representative from the Bahrain MOFA.





A FAREWELL FIT FOR A TRUE LEADER

The Embassy of Malaysia in the Kingdom of Bahrain held a farewell ceremony for H.E. Ambassador Dato' Ahmad Shahizan Abd Samad and Y.Bhg. Datin Nor Hayati Abdul Ghani on 14 November 2016 at the Chancery building. All Home Based Staff (HBS) and Locally Recruited Staff (LRS) presented a performance of medley songs; Rasa Sayang and Jolly Good Fella for H.E. Ambassador and YBhg. Datin. Besides the heartfelt speeches and tribute from each of the Embassy's members, the Head of Chancery also presented a special momento to H.E. Ambassador, on behalf of the Embassy. The memorable event was then followed by lunch at Nattinpuram Restaurant in Manama.



AU REVOIR DEAR AMBASSADOR!





NOODLE MAKING DEMO BY PERWAKILAN

YBhg. Datin Norhayati Abdul Ghani has led PERWAKILAN Manama for the past five (5) years, whose leadership was continued throughout year 2016. At the same time, MALAWAKIL Manama also took part in activities organized by Jusoor under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bahrain.



The ladies were treated to a scrumptious spread by YBhg. Datin who is famous for her outstanding skills in cooking!

On 1 November 2016, PERWAKILAN Manama's Chairman, YBhg. Datin Norhayati held a Noodle Making Demonstration at Rumah Malaysia. The knowledge sharing experience was attended by PERWAKILAN Manama members as well as Malaysian ladies residing in Bahrain, which imparted valuable lessons to the participants, since they don't sell yellow/egg noodle here in Bahrain!



YBhg. Datin imparting the art of noodle making.

The IISS Manama Dialogue The Regional Security Summit

The IISS Manama Dialogue, 12th Regional Security Summit was held at the Ritz Carlton Bahrain Hotel & Spa on 9-11 December 2016. The IISS is a non-partisan organization, with its Headquarters in London and offices in Washington, Bahrain and Singapore. Its mission is to promote the adoption of sound policies to further global peace and security and maintain civilized international relations.

The annual IISS Manama Dialogue this year was organized back-to-back with the 37th GCC Summit and the 1st GCC-UK Summit. Strong representation from participating countries symbolized this year's success with strong ministerial level attendance.

A delegation from the Prime Minister's Office attended the IISS Manama Dialogue on the invitation from its counterpart, the Bahraini National Security Agency (NSA). H.E. Ambassador had a meeting with YBhg. Dato' Rani Ismail Hadi Ali, Deputy Director General, who led the delegation, where amongst others discussed the importance for Malaysia to develop its policy direction and orientation towards security and intelligence in the middle east.



H.E. Ambassador had a productive meeting with YBhg. Dato' Rani Ismail Hadi Ali.

ASEAN HOM MEETING TO ESTABLISH ACMB



All five (5) Heads of Missions residing in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain had signed a letter addressed to H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta, Indonesia on 22 November 2016 on the proposed establishment of the ASEAN Committee in Manama, Bahrain (ACMB). The objective of establishment is to promote the ASEAN identity and interest in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Bahrain's continuous support in boosting the ASEAN-GCC Cooperation is evident as it hosted two (2) Ministerial Meetings in 2009 and 2013 respectively. The meeting was hosted by H.E. Ambassador Alfonso A. Ver, the Ambassador of the Philippines to Bahrain on 21 November 2016, at its Chancery building in Manama.

The Malaysian Connection...

Studying in Malaysia has been more than just an experience for me. It has been a life-changing phase where I was able to indulge in living in a multi-ethnic society that offers such warm hospitality, among its diversified culture. The four years I have spent at Multimedia University, Malacca Campus, have added such remarkable moment of life where I have earned by Bachelor's of Business (Honors) International Business and have met such great people from all around the world and was able to further explore the culture through engaging such local events.

Nevertheless, it was a great opportunity to have the honor and be invited to attend an open house during the Hari Raya Aidil Fitri, and familiar with the celebration, which is commonly celebrated back home and eating such tasty food. Furthermore, engaging in the Chinese New Year celebration was a great experience as well, as it brought me an ideology of the rituals being practiced among the Chinese community in Malaysia and; of course, having to receive "Ang Paos" which are red envelopes having an amount of money.

Similarly, celebrating Deepavali, which is known as the festival of lights, was also a new experience that made me have a greater understanding of the Indian culture in Malaysia. Words can't describe the mesmerizing view I have sought throughout my few years on the development phases that Malaysia has become and the growth in the number of tourists and community-friendly Malaysia. It was such a journey that leaving such a country with kindhearted people was not easy, but I know that it shall be my second home, anytime that I further desire to visit of in the future.



Prepared by;

Ahmed Semaikh
Translator
Embassy of Malaysia

FROM THE EDITOR'S TABLE

The second half of the 2016 has been a busy one especially in the fourth quarter of the year. The Embassy's activities and engagements with stakeholders from both Malaysia and Bahrain has certainly picked up, which the Editorial Team had to work extra hard to compressed it in this Second Edition of the Manama Connects.

Hoped you had a glimpse of Manama from the lenses we presented through this e-newsletter and had fun reading! Should you have any enquiries and comments, please don't hesitate to contact us at mwmanama@kln.gov.my.

Thank you and Happy New Year 2017!

Siti Fateha Khairudin

Editor



**EMBASSY OF MALAYSIA
MANAMA,
KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN**

Address: Chancery Building 2305
Road 2830, Block 428
Seef District,
P.O. Box 18292
Manama

Telephone: +973 1756 4551

GMT: +5hours

Working Days: Sunday-Thursday (8.00 am to 4.00pm)