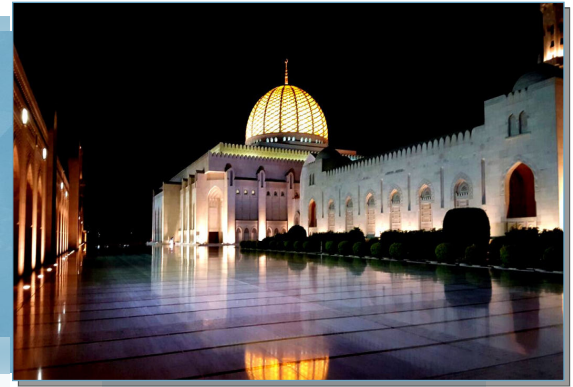


VOICE OF MUSCAT

Your stories, our news

JULY—DECEMBER 2016
2nd Issue



From the Editorial Desk

Happy New Year 2017! We proudly present to you the second issue of the “Voice of Muscat” for 2016. In this issue, we introduce a catchy tagline “Your stories, our news” to define the whole concept of the E-Newsletter that offers updates on recent trends and activities in town ranging from leisure, business, economy and matters of interest to Malaysia and its community in the Sultanate of Oman. At the same time, we welcome fresh ideas that will help us further improve the E-Newsletter. We encourage the readers, yes you, to share your anecdotes and experiences in the E-Newsletter. “Voice of Muscat”, because your voice matters! *Ma’a salama!*

4 FAST FACTS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT TANFEEDH



- **What?** *Tanfeedh* is Oman's National Programme for Enhancing Economic Diversification; which is inspired by Malaysia's economic model.
- **Who?** PEMANDU Unit of JPM is the lead!
- **Why?** It intends to increase the five non-oil sectors namely tourism, manufacturing, logistic, fishing and mining in Oman's overall GDP.
- **How?** It will boost private and public partnership in the government's initiatives and projects.

Inside this issue

Working Visit of the Chief Minister of Pahang 2

6th Oman Health Exhibition 2

Malaysian Social Night 3

EduTrac Oman 3

11th Food and Hospitality 3

Food Maniac: Café Malaysia, Oman 4

EXCELLENT CAMARADERIE AT THE 7TH OMAN-MALAYSIA GOLF TOURNAMENT



The Malaysian and Omani players of the 7th Oman-Malaysia Golf Tournament at the Glenmarie Golf and Country Club, Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia which was held from 7-8 October 2016.

7-8 October 2016 - Congratulations! October was certainly a happy sporting month for Malaysia who emerged victorious at the 7th Oman-Malaysia Golf Tournament marking the third victory for the Malaysian team.

The annual event has come a long way since its inception in 2010 when Omani and Malaysian golf enthusiasts in the oil and gas industry mooted the idea of a golf tournament. What started out as friendly matches quickly turned into keen competition. Over the years, the tournament has expanded to include Malaysian expats in Oman and businessmen from both countries. But the tournament is about so much more than just a game. What better way to build bridges and get people together than getting involved in a fun sport? The tournament has become a solid platform to foster people-to-people relations and brought the two countries together in a show of sportsmanship and friendship.

The 7th Oman-Malaysia Golf Tournament which took place at Glenmarie Golf & Country Club, Shah Alam, Malaysia, would not have been a success without the support of our sponsors. A big thank you to NGC Energy Sdn. Bhd. (a subsidiary of Oman's National Gas Company) and Oman Air for generously sponsoring the tournament. Special thanks as well to Majees Technical Services LLC, Trowers and Hamlin, UMW Holdings Berhad, Tourism Malaysia, Tourism Selangor, MK Tron Sdn. Bhd., Sapura Group, Al Mouj Golf Club and Imagine Technologies.



Snapshots



YB FM's in town! The Embassy was privileged to have spent some time with H.E. Dato' Sri Anifah Aman, Minister of Foreign Affairs, on 18 November 2016. YB FM was on transit in Muscat en route to Malaysia from Mecca. Thank you Dato' Sri for taking the time to meet us!



Home-based staff and families brush up their bowling skills in conjunction with Hari Sukan Negara 2016.



MTCP Alumni share their wonderful experiences in Malaysia and mind-boggling facts about Oman's history and culture.



Ambassador and spouse enjoy a memorable afternoon with the Keralan community in Muscat during the feast of Onam celebration, a harvest festival in the State of Kerala, India.



Meeting Malaysian businessmen seeking investment opportunities in Oman.

WORKING VISIT OF THE CHIEF MINISTER OF PAHANG

19-21 September 2016 - YAB Dato' Sri DiRaja Haji Adnan bin Yaakob, Chief Minister of Pahang, led a delegation from the Pahang state government to participate in the 11th Food and Hospitality Oman, which was held at the Oman International Exhibition Centre from 20-22 September 2016.

YAB Dato' Sri DiRaja witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Cooperative Societies Commission of Malaysia and Mindinspire LLC for Superbest Coffee products and *madu kelulut*. He underlined that Pahang was keen to embark on further cooperation and trade with the Omani side and looked forward to future visits by various Pahang agencies to Oman.

During his visit, YAB Dato' Sri DiRaja also had the opportunity to meet fellow Malaysians at Shangri La Barr Al Jissah Resort and Spa, Muscat. He updated the audience on the latest developments in Malaysia and reminded the Malaysian community to be at their best and to always uphold the country's good image while abroad.



Ambassador Shahril Effendi Abd Ghany hosts a lunch for the Pahang delegation at the official residence.



YAB Dato' Sri DiRaja Haji Adnan bin Yaakob, Chief Minister of Pahang, witnesses the signing of MoU between Mindinspire LLC and Cooperative Societies Commission of Pahang Branch for Superbest Coffee products and *madu kelulut*.

Fast Fact
International Living ranked Malaysia as one of the world's top-four medical tourism destination.

6TH OMAN HEALTH EXHIBITION



Ambassador Shahril Effendi Abd Ghany with the delegation of Malaysia Healthcare Travel Council

20-22 September 2016 - The Malaysia Healthcare Travel Council (MHTC) led a team comprised of medical experts and specialist consultants from KPJ Healthcare Berhad, Pantai Hospital and Sunway Medical Centre to participate in the 6th Oman Health Exhibition at the Oman Exhibition International Centre. The MHTC's programme also included talks by Dr. Cham Weng Tarn from Sunway Medical Centre on "Joint Pain in Children: When to Worry?" and Mr. Joachim John Fernandez from KPJ Tawakkal on "Assisted Devices and Robotics for Rehabilitation". Hana Medics Sdn. Bhd., a private pharmaceutical company from Malaysia, also participated in the event.

MALAYSIAN SOCIAL NIGHT

Fast Fact
608 Malaysians residing in Oman.

29 December 2016 - Two nights before saying goodbye to 2016, the Embassy organised a get-together with a number of Malaysian expats in Muscat. And where else would you be able to enjoy authentic Malaysian cuisine if not at Café Malaysia, Oman? To pamper oneself with *daging salai masak lemak, kangkung belacan, ayam masak cili* and *cucur udang* for dinner, oh it was a bliss. And having *air jagung* and *air barli ais* for drinks were just perfect!

It was a fun evening to catch up and hear stories and experiences of our fellow Malaysians from all walks of life ranging from engineers, nurses, lecturers, financial consultants and businessmen. Who knew a chemical formula can actually sound captivating from the words of an oil and gas engineer?

We hope to be able to have more outings with our Malaysian expats here in the future.

Would you like to know more about Café Malaysia, Oman? Flip to the next page to check out our first article for "Food Maniac" column.



"... to catch up and hear stories and experiences of our fellow Malaysians from all walks of life ranging from engineers, nurses, lecturers, financial consultants and businessmen."

Fast Fact
In 2016, Malaysia recorded 709 students' enrolment from Oman; an increase of 64% from the previous year; and the second highest enrolment among GCC countries.

EDUTRAC OMAN

18-20 October 2016 - The Higher Education, Training and Career Expo (EduTrac Oman 2016) was held at the new Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre in Muscat. The event saw the participation of six private universities from Malaysia namely Asia Pacific University of Technology and Innovation, HELP University, KDU University College, Limkokwing University of Creative Technology, SEGi University and Sunway University.



One of the private universities from Malaysia at the EduTrac Oman 2016

The delegation also called on H.E. Ambassador Shahril Effendi Abd Ghany on 17 October 2016. The meeting provided an opportunity for both sides to discuss and exchange views on issues related to Omani students and higher education in Malaysia.

The EduTrac Oman 2016 is held annually under the patronage of the Ministry of Higher Education and Ministry of Manpower in the Sultanate of Oman to provide an opportunity for students, graduates and job seekers to seek consultancy from career counsellors and management staff for career and academic guidance.

11TH FOOD AND HOSPITALITY

20-22 September 2016 - Seven companies from Malaysia namely Coffeeland Sdn. Bhd., Linaco Manufacturing (M), Morris Food, Rafulin Ventures Sdn. Bhd., Salam Food & Beverage Sdn. Bhd., SGK Food Industry Sdn. Bhd., and Shoon Fatt Trading participated in the 11th Food and Hospitality Oman at the Oman International Exhibition Centre. The event is an international trade exhibition that serves as a platform for companies and industry stakeholders to promote their latest products and services.



Snapshots



PERWAKILAN Muscat Ladies have an awesome time preparing *rangoli* (coloured rice) for Deepavali and receive special tutorial on how to wear Indian saree.



The ASEAN Ladies Committee throws a fabulous baby shower for Puan Siti Aisyah Nordin, wife of Encik Shamsul Azmi Aziz (Third Secretary).



Bowling? It's what the ASEAN Committee in Muscat thrives! Every year without fail, the ASEAN Committee will participate in bowling competition and show off their skills in a fun-loving spirit.



Selamat Hari Raya Aidilfitri dan Maaf Zahir Batin! PERWAKILAN Muscat hosts its own fiesta of *makan-makan*.



Majlis Ilmu Muscat welcomes all those interested to join the interactive Islamic session every Thursday night.

FOOD MANIAC: CAFÉ MALAYSIA OMAN



If you happen to be in Muscat, you should make a point to drop by at Café Malaysia, Oman. As its name suggests, the restaurant is indeed Malaysian to the bone! From *Nasi Lemak Ayam Rendang* (coconut rice with chicken rendang) to *Asam Laksa* (spicy and sour fish noodles), you may rest assured that you will undoubtedly savour authentic Malaysian cuisine. For us Malaysians, nothing beats the smell of *belacan* (shrimp paste), yummy... a touch of local flavor especially when it comes to our *sambal* (chili paste). You may visit Café Malaysia Oman at Al Khuwair Street or give them a call at (+968) 9445 3050.

Which restaurants would you recommend in the Sultanate of Oman? Share your stories and pictures with Voice of Muscat. You can send your articles to mwmuscat.kln@gmail.com.

HAVE YOU REGISTERED AS A VOTER?



You may register at the Embassy of Malaysia in Muscat which is located at Villa No. 1611, Way No. 3019, Shatti Al-Qurum, Muscat. We will require your MyKad, Malaysian Passport and three passport-sized photograph for the registration process. Registration can be done anytime from Sunday to Thursday from 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. (except public holiday). Call us at (+968) 2469 8329 for further details. Register now because your vote counts!

OUR AMBASSADOR APPEARS IN THEWEEK'S TAKE10!

Ambassador Shahril Effendi was featured in TheWeek's 'TAKE 10' - a popular column where a personality in town is chosen to answer a set of 10 questions every week. If you missed it, don't worry. Here's the article.

TAKE 10

TheWeek's very own personality test

H E SHAHRIL EFFENDI ABD GHANY
Ambassador of Malaysia to Oman



01. If you were a superhero, what superpower would you like to have?
The superpower to read minds.
02. Who would you like to bring back to life? Why?
Maybe none.
03. What was your last act of kindness?
Shhh...
04. Which character in which film would you like people to remind of you?
Daniel "Danny" Ocean in the *Ocean's Trilogy*.
05. What do you do when stuck in traffic?
Find alternative routes.
06. Describe happiness in three words.
BBQ spare ribs.
07. What's the one question you desperately need an answer to?
Will Liverpool FC win it this year?
08. When was the last time you cried? Why?
Can't remember.
09. What's your earliest memory of success?
Making it to the primary school hockey team.
10. What do you want to be when you grow up?
Pilot

WE NEED YOUR CONTRIBUTION

Add your voices to Voice of Muscat by sharing your stories. It can be either your field of work and profession or simply your hobbies and interests. Choose your own theme and send your articles or pictures to mwmuscat.kln@gmail.com or contact us at 2469 8329 for further details.

Snapshots



The ASEAN Committee in Muscat meets to celebrate the coming of the New Year. Welcome 2017!



Beach picnic is popular in Oman during the winter months. The PERWAKILAN Ladies in Muscat pack their picnic baskets and enjoy one of the best picnicking spots in town.



A friendly football match between Malaysia and Nigeria's community in Muscat during the sporting month of October.



MERDEKA! MERDEKA! MERDEKA! Café Malaysia, Oman echoes with shouts of those glorious words from Malaysian community celebrating the 59th National Day.



Well-known for their generosity, the Malaysian community in Muscat lends a helping hand to raise funds for humanitarian causes in war-torn Yemen.