



From the Editorial Team:

Our activities have picked up a lot since our last e-newsletter. The editorial team certainly had to work extra hard to cover them all, but we are excited to present you this special 'bumper' issue of 15 pages!

In this issue we are introducing a new section on 'My Malaysia Experience'. This section is dedicated for articles and stories shared by Canadians who have 'experienced' Malaysia in many ways.

We hope you'll have a fun reading and again, if you have any enquiries or would like to contribute in our e-Newsletter, please do not hesitate to email me at zahaslan@kln.gov.my.

Thank you, happy holidays and a happy new year!

Tengku Zahaslan, Editor

E-NEWSLETTER OF THE HIGH COMMISSION OF MALAYSIA, OTTAWA

From the High Commissioner's Desk

by Dato' Aminah Tun Karim Shaharudin



Salam and Hello again,

How time flies! It's been six months since our last update and there's a lot that has happened at this Post. Relations between Malaysia and Canada has progressed and is progressing well – the most encouraging development being the approval for PETRONAS, our stellar petroleum corporation, to proceed with its LNG project in British Columbia. Malaysia also won re-election to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Council in Montreal and most excitingly, a Malaysian chef emerged champion in the Embassy Chef Challenge Canada 2016 – a real feather in our cap.

December sees the conclusion of Malaysia's successful chairmanship of the ASEAN Committee in Ottawa (ACO). Our efforts to make ASEAN more visible in Canada were, I

believe, clearly achieved as we conducted a whole gamut of activities, ranging from a first ever breakfast meeting with the Foreign Minister of Canada, to intellectual discourses and even social events. Please do take time to view page 3 to learn more about ACO activities from July onwards.

In 2017, Canada will celebrate its sesquicentennial (150th) year of Confederation. We extend our heartiest congratulations and sincere best wishes for the country's continued success. It also happens to be a significant milestone year for Malaysia and Canada as we commemorate the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two nations. While the Malaysian community here is rather small, we plan to involve everyone in our activities to mark this important year. I personally believe that Malaysian cuisine can help promote our country and culture. The blend of exotic spices in our food undoubtedly appeals to the taste buds of many. We will also share interesting facts about our wonderful country, people, exotic tourist destinations, economic opportunities and all that Malaysia has to offer.

Last but not least, we wish all of you Happy Holidays and a prosperous, exciting 2017!

Malaysia Post

July- December 2016

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Malaysia partook in the Embassy Chef Challenge for the first time and came out champion - Page 5



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Canadians share their beautiful story travelling to Malaysia – Page 8

Malaysia re-elected to ICAO Council

by Tengku Zahaslan, First Secretary

If you have read our first e-Newsletter, you would have known that Malaysia had again put its candidature to be re-elected in the ICAO Council for the fourth consecutive term. The election took place on 4 October 2016 during the 39th ICAO Assembly in Montreal. We are happy that after working very hard to obtain support, Malaysia was successful in her bid.



H.E. Dato' Aminah Hj. A Karim, High Commissioner for Malaysia to Canada and Mr.

Tengku Zahaslan, First Secretary joined the Malaysian Delegation to the ICAO Assembly to lobby for votes and participate in the meetings. The Malaysian Delegation was headed by YB Dato' Seri Liow Tiong Lai, Minister of Transport and comprised of officials from the Ministry of Transport, Malaysian Aviation Commission, Department of Civil Aviation, Malaysian Aviation Academy and

those in the airlines industry including Malaysia Airlines, Airasia and Malindo Air.

Malaysia garnered 129 votes out of 172 at the ICAO Council Part III election and retained its 13th position. In a statement issued by YB Dato' Seri Liow Tiong Lai following announcement of the election result, he said that Malaysia 'believes that ensuring safer skies is of paramount importance, and greater international cooperation among all ICAO member nations will see this through fruition.'

We are truly heartened by the continued confidence, trust and recognition by ICAO member states in Malaysia's contribution to the organisation and the aviation sector. Retaining the seat will enable Malaysia to continue to contribute significantly towards achieving ICAO's vision in the global aviation industry.



Registering as Malaysian Voters in Canada

by Mohd Nasir Aris, Second Secretary

Registration of voters for Malaysians abroad is divided into two categories:

Postal Voters/Absent Voters comprising of:

1. Armed forces who are in service abroad
2. Government Personnel (Federal Government, States Service or local authorities) who are in service abroad
3. Individuals studying full time abroad and under government scholarships
4. Spouses to the list above

Normal Voters

Malaysians living abroad other than those stated above.



The High Commission of Malaysia will register voters on behalf of the Election Commission of Malaysia (SPR). Registration can be done anytime throughout the year during the office business hours. You will need to present an identification document (identification card/ passport) confirming your Malaysian citizenship and three (3) passport-sized photographs.

At the time of election, normal voters need to return to Malaysia to cast their ballots. For postal voters, casting of ballots is made by post. Voting papers will be distributed once they are received from SPR.

Please visit www.spr.gov.my for further information.

Malaysia's Chairmanship of ASEAN Committee in Ottawa

by Tengku Zahaslan, First Secretary

At the 248th ASEAN Committee in Ottawa (ACO) Heads of Mission Meeting in June 2016, Malaysia accepted to become the chair of ACO for the period from July to December 2016. Malaysia took over the chairmanship from Indonesia, who chaired the committee for the first half of the year from January to June 2016.

ACO's chairmanship rotates every six months among ASEAN Heads of Mission. Rotation is based on the alphabetical order of ASEAN countries. Each chair is responsible to monitor, coordinate and implement ACO activities.

The following are some of the highlights of ACO activities during Malaysia's chairmanship:

ACO Heads of Mission Breakfast Meeting with Foreign Minister Stephane Dion, Global Affairs Canada, 19 July 2016



249th & 250th ACO-Heads of Mission Meetings, 8 August and 13 December 2016



ASEAN Day Luncheon, Rumah Malaysia, 8 August 2016



ASEAN Picnic, Vincent Massey Park, 26 August 2016



Panel Discussion on ASEAN, Carleton University, 28 September 2016



ASEAN Roundtable Discussion on 'Middle Power Possibilities for ASEAN and Canada in a New Strategic Context', Rumah Malaysia, 10 November 2016



Malaysia also launched the official ACO Facebook page to ensure that the public can gain better access on ACO activities. Please visit www.facebook.com/ACO.Ottawa and like the page to keep yourself updated with our effort to heighten ASEAN's profile in Canada!



MEETINGS



Meeting with Deputy Ministers

Left: Meeting with Deputy Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Mr. Michael Martin, 16 September 2016. Right: Meeting with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ian Shugart, 24 October 2016



Meeting of Women Ambassadors in Ottawa

High Commissioner joined other women Ambassadors in Ottawa for a meeting on 25 November 2016 at Embassy of Honduras.



Meeting with DMDI Canada Secretariat

A meeting with Dunia Melayu Dunia Islam (DMDI) Canada Secretariat was held at Rumah Malaysia on 5 December 2016. Discussion was mainly on activities to be held in conjunction with the 60th anniversary of Malaysia-Canada diplomatic relations in 2017.

SUMMER PICNICS!



MAC Picnic 2016

14 August 2016 – Malaysian Association of Canada (MAC) annual picnic event in Stouffville, Ontario



ASEAN Picnic 2016

26 August 2016 – ASEAN Committee in Ottawa (ACO) members organized the annual ASEAN Picnic event at Vincent Massey Park, Ottawa



Hari Raya Picnic 2016

15 July 2016 – Malaysians attended the Hari Raya Picnic event organized by the High Commission at Rockcliffe Park, Ottawa.

FACTS & FIGURES

154

Number of Malaysian visas issued by the High Commission of Malaysia, Ottawa from June-November 2016



An Afternoon with Malaysia

by Tengku Zahaslan, First Secretary

On 12 August 2016, H.E. Dato' Aminah Tun and spouse, Mr. Shaharudin hosted an intimate 'Afternoon with Malaysia' event at Rumah Malaysia. The event was held for winners of a silent auction during a Heads of Missions Spouse Association (HOMSA) charity event.

Guests were able to 'experience' Malaysia through interesting presentations and activities. The afternoon started with a few presentations by Mr. Shaharuddin himself who introduced Malaysia from interesting perspectives. Thereafter, Ms. Nadhila Mazlan from PERWAKILAN presented on Malaysia's flowers, kite-making and how Batik is made and used by Malaysians.

After the presentations, guests were ushered to another corner of the residence where *roti canai* and *teh tarik* (pulled tea) were demonstrated. Meanwhile, the hall were tastefully decorated with Malaysian arts such as decorative *Wau Bulan* (Malaysian traditional kite), *Ketupat* and paintings by Malaysian artists. There were

also displays of Malaysian costumes and handicrafts.

The food demonstration was followed by actual serving of the *roti canai* and *teh tarik*, together with delicious array of authentic Malaysian cuisine.

The event ended with singing of Malay folk song 'Rasa Sayang' and crash course on 'Joget' dancing where all guests participated. The event literally ended on a high note!

Guests who attended truly enjoyed the afternoon. One of them remarked that it 'really did feel like an afternoon IN Malaysia'.



National Sports Day

by Tengku Zahaslan, First Secretary

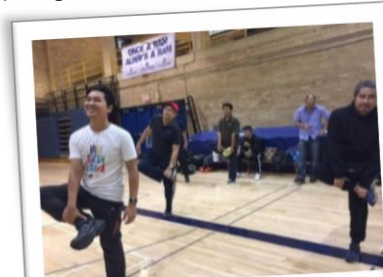
On 8 October 2016, officials of the High Commission of Malaysia drove down to Toronto to join Malaysian students who were competing in MySukan V, the annual and biggest sporting event by Malaysian students in eastern Canada. The event kicked off with a National Sports Day activity – an aerobic session which was opened to all Malaysians.

The event was co-organised by the High Commission, Malaysian Students Association at University of Toronto (MASAT) and Dunia



Melayu Dunia Islam (DMDI) Canada Secretariat.

The National Sports Day is ultimately about promoting a healthy lifestyle among Malaysians as Malaysia strives to transform into a 'sporting nation'. The event was a huge success and saw a total of 120 Malaysians participating!



Embassy Chef Challenge 2016

by Tengku Zahaslan, First Secretary

On 3 November 2016, the High Commission of Malaysia participated in the Embassy Chef Challenge event for the first time. The annual charity event was organised by IBD (Inflammatory Bowel Disease) Foundation Canada and held to raise funds to be donated to the Children's Hospital in Eastern Ontario (CHEO). This is the third time the event was held in Ottawa and saw 400 people attending.

Professional chefs from eleven countries – Malaysia, United Kingdom, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Belgium, France, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Kazakhstan and Pakistan – partook in the competition. Two types of awards were up for grabs; Judges' Choice Award, and People's Choice Award.

Despite facing stiff competition from other embassies – with two chefs representing UK and Trinidad and Tobago being former winners in 2014 and 2015 respectively – the High Commission of Malaysia represented by Chef Safura Tawil emerged as this year's winner of the Judges' Choice Award!

The winning cuisine prepared during the event were our three national favourites – Chicken Satay with Nasi Impit, Otak-Otak with Sambal Belacan, and Pulut Kuning with Beef Rendang and Serunding.

Apart from that, the High Commission also managed to raise C\$1,500 by offering on live auction an 'Afternoon with Malaysia' event, where the winning bidder will be invited to spend an afternoon at the High Commissioner's Residence and 'experience' Malaysia through a myriad of cultural activities, displays and demonstrations.

Our win in the Embassy Chef Challenge was not only a recognition of the capability of our resident chef, but also proof of the international quality of our traditional Malaysian cuisine.

WATCH IT ON YOUTUBE

If you wish to see video highlights of the Embassy Chef Challenge 2016, please go to Youtube website at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oVajakIP_fg



Asia-Pacific Heads of Mission Spouses Get a Taste of Malaysia

by *Shaharudin Abd Ghani*



Rumah Malaysia was the venue for the December 2016 monthly gathering of the Heads Of Missions Spouses Association (HOMSA). Shaharudin Abdul Ghani and High Commissioner Dato Aminah Tun played hosts to nine Asia-Pacific spouses and two "guest" spouses. The attendees for the December 2016 instalment were: Mrs Marina Negus (Australia), Mrs Andis Faizashah (Indonesia), Mrs Eunyoung Park (Korea), Mrs Tsetseglen Tsevendoorji (Mongolia), Mrs Wannipa Isarabhakdi (Thailand), Mrs Kamala Pokhrel (Nepal), Mrs Nishat Rahman (Bangladesh) and Mrs Khyint Saw Kyi (Myanmar). Aslo



present were "guest" spouses Mrs Indira Zhigalova (Kazakhstan) and Dr. Khaulh Al-Koofi (Iraq). The group bade a very warm and hearty welcome to newcomer Mrs Khyint Saw Kyi of Myanmar who was attending a HOMSA Asia-Pacific gathering for the first time since arriving in Ottawa in November 2016.

The informal and joyous morning began with a light discussion centered on the three children of the hosts - Shafinaz Ashura, Illya Azraai and Reza Azman - on the experiences and pluses and minuses of being Third Culture Kids (TCKs). Everyone present benefitted from the informative and lively exchange of experiences and opinions as the subject matter ran close to everyone's heart.

The next item on the agenda was a food preparation demonstration by the champion of Embassy Chef Challenge Canada 2016- Chef Safura Tawil, resident chef in Rumah Malaysia. Chef Safura



treated the appreciative audience to a step-by-step process of preparing "Roti Canai" – a favorite dish among Malaysians and well-



loved by any expatriate who has lived in Malaysia. The natural progression after the mouth-watering demonstration was of course a treat of Malaysian afternoon tea delights.



Guests enjoyed the offerings prepared by Chef Safura which included Roti Canai, Fried Mee Hoon, Roti Jala, Dhal Gravy, Chicken Curry, Sago Gula Melaka washed down with delicious Teh Tarik.

The food was good and more importantly, the company was excellent. Lively conversations centered around learning of each other's culture, country, religion and lots more. This was bonding at its best.

HOMSA is dedicated to providing a platform for the networking of spouses of Heads of Missions serving in Canada.

International Conference on Blue Ocean Strategy (ICBOS)

by Dzulkefly Abdullah, Minister-Counsellor



Around the world, people's demands and expectations of government continue to rise. Meeting those demands is made all the more difficult in a challenging global economic environment. This is why governments need to transform and find new ways to deliver strong economic growth and enhance the services they provide.

In order to achieve its national goal of becoming an advanced country by 2020, Malaysia has put creativity at the heart of its national development efforts. It applied the National Blue Ocean Strategy (NBOS) approach of rapidly delivering high value (impact) to the people of Malaysia, while keeping the costs of providing government services low.

In light of this, Malaysia hosted the **International Conference on Blue Ocean Strategy (ICBOS)** at the Putrajaya International Convention Centre (PICC) in Putrajaya, Malaysia from 16 to 18 August 2016 with the theme, **Transforming Nations through Creativity and Innovation**. Over 5,500 participants, representing 45 countries, attended the conference.

This three-day conference gave an opportunity for participants to share knowledge and ideas of how to inject creativity and innovation in the formulation and implementation of national policies and initiatives. The conference consisted of keynote speeches and panel discussions by national leaders, eminent speakers, and global experts from all around the world. In conjunction with the conference, an NBOS Open Day and Exhibition was held at the same venue.

The conference also showcased the success of NBOS based on the principles of delivering high value while keeping costs low. Since its adoption in 2009 in Malaysia, over 90 NBOS initiatives have been implemented by over 80 ministries and agencies, which closely collaborate to share resources, eliminate duplication and deliver high value to the Malaysian citizens.

Malaysia has saved billions of ringgit through several initiatives undertaken via NBOS since 2009. One key NBOS success story is the Urban Transformation Centre (UTC), which has helped the government save RM1.5 billion by renovating and modifying existing underutilised buildings at the lowest possible cost, while giving better access for government services to Malaysians.



The ICBOS triggered large global media coverage. More than 500 articles in both domestic and international media shared the success story of how Malaysia is making waves in public development. Moreover, many of the attendees expressed an interest in replicating NBOS initiatives in their own countries. Kenya has already set up 40 Urban Transformation Centers (UTC) in the last few years, and countries like Thailand and many others are expected to follow soon. Having set itself the ambitious goal of becoming an advanced nation by 2020, Malaysia's creative and innovative blue ocean approach is now set to lead the way forward in national development all over the world.

ACTIVITIES IN PICTURES



Canada Day Reception

High Commissioner Dato' Aminah Tun and spouse, Mr. Shaharudin joined Foreign Minister Stephane Dion and wife, Ms. Janine Kriebler at the Canada Day Reception.



Working Group Meeting

As chair of ACO, Malaysia also organizes ACO meetings at the Working Group level.



Year-End Gathering

Year-End Gathering: 'Colours of Malaysia' held at the High Commission, 2 December 2016. The event gathers all Malaysians and families around Ottawa for a lovely get-together whilst enjoying an array of delicious Malaysian dishes.

My Malaysia Experience

Ms. Camrose Burdon, one of the guests attending the 'Afternoon with Malaysia' event, shares her beautiful experience travelling to Malaysia



As Captain Roland Andersson brought the Aegean Odyssey to anchor off Malacca at 8 a.m. on the 24th of February 1916, we hastily finished up our breakfast and prepared to land in this historic city on the Straits of Malacca. It was the first stop on a "Cruise to India" that had originated in Singapore.

We are a Canadian couple and had flown from our home city Ottawa to join 400 other seafarers on a relatively small, yet very comfortable ship with excellent services. Most were attracted by the cruise program, which, unlike the larger ships, offered more in the way of expert lectures, relaxation, and superb cuisine -- and less in the way of on-board entertainment. All the travellers were adults and like us, most were over 50.

My knowledge of Malaysia was quite fuzzy prior to this, my first visit, and it had come largely through literature. For instance, I



visualized large tea plantations such as those in one of my favourite books, the acclaimed 2012 novel *The Garden of Evening Mists*, by Malaysian author Tan Twan Eng.

As a mystery fan I was deeply intrigued by Shamini Flint's story *Inspector Singh Investigates: A Most Peculiar Malaysian Murder*. Through its characters I glimpsed various ethnic peoples of Malaysia and Singapore, and relations between them and between the two countries. (Author Shamini Flint, a



Malaysian and a lawyer based in Singapore, had been praised in a review in *The Guardian*: "...Flint's thoughtful and compassionate exploration of racial and religious tensions between the two countries is thoroughly compelling."

Through Tan's story I had also become aware of the legacy of the Japanese occupation of Malaysia during World War II, and of the post-war period of guerrilla insurgency.

As for current affairs I knew that Malaysia had a fast-growing economy, one built mainly on natural resources but more recently diversified into flourishing technology and service sectors. Its multi-ethnic population is roughly the size of Canada's and about 60% are Muslim. Islam is the state religion while



freedom of religion is allowed for non-Muslims. Malaysia is a federal constitutional elective monarchy with a parliamentary government.

But the focus of our heritage tour this morning was on earlier periods of history. Malacca (also called Melaka) enjoyed enviable success for centuries as a trading post, attracting traders from both East and West. It also drew colonizers greedy to profit from its riches: in turn, Portuguese, Dutch, and British controlled it.

A short walk from our ship's tender point stands a reminder of the Portuguese: an impressive ship, a reconstruction of the Portuguese *Flora de La Mar* that sank off Malacca in the 16th century, said to have been captained by a cousin of Vasco de Gama. The ship houses a popular and informative maritime museum.

The Malacca River divides the city in two, with colonial influence particularly evident on the right side. At the Dutch Square in the historic centre of the city we admired the 17th century

Stadthuys Museum, among other buildings from the era, and climbed up St. Paul's Hill for views over the trading waters below and to

promenade lined with antique shops, souvenirs, and more restaurants. It was too soon for lunch but it was hot and I felt like taking a break. At a small modern café with outdoor tables I gazed at the river and reflected gratefully on the sunny hot weather – such a contrast to the frozen Rideau Canal in Ottawa! A courteous young man served me a cup of rich coffee and delicious pastry. Girls in hijab smiled back at me as they bicycled by, a reminder that I was in a friendly country, and one where most people are Muslims.

A short walk took me back to the centre, where I studied a line of fantastically decorated bicycle rickshaws – many inspired by American children's films in contrast to the centuries-old Malaysian

We would depart that evening for Sri Lanka but before then we had a half day to visit Penang. Not long enough, but we would make the most of it. Our bus made its way through the dense noise and traffic of Georgetown, Penang's capital, providing views of edifices like the Eastern & Oriental Hotel, which recall its history as a British possession. I was happy when our tour bus delivered us to the calm, cool Penang State Museum.

The displays in this museum are exceptionally effective. They really reach out and draw you in to observe intimately the historical home life, social traditions, and work of typical ethnic communities: the wealthy Chinese merchants, who were mostly illiterate, but valued education highly and made sure their sons acquired higher education in Britain or China before returning to Penang; the Baba and Nyonya, offspring of unions between

Malay women and Chinese men, who retain a Chinese identity while speaking a dialect that blends a Chinese dialect, English, and a Malay dialect; Hindu Indians, Muslim Indians, Sikhs and others.

Fine examples of furniture, clothing, carts, automobiles, and photographs represent each culture. Explanatory panels of text are well composed, easy to see, and presented in multiple languages, including English.

My experience of this museum was key to a better understanding of the people of Malaysia, something I would reflect on over the next three days at sea.

While our visit to Malaysia was too short, it was thoroughly enjoyable, and it was an enticement to further exploration at another time. When we subsequently had the chance to participate in an event at the Malaysian High Commission in Ottawa our lively hosts treated us to exquisite food, beautiful examples of batik and other crafts, a demonstration of tea pulling (!), communal dancing and singing, as well as an entertaining presentation on the country and an open question-and-answer session. As a result we came to feel much better informed and even keener on further exploration of this wonderful country!

Jumpa lagi, Malaysia – see you again!

Camrose Burdon
Ottawa, Canada



stop at St. Paul's Church with its 17th century Dutch tombstones – as well as an empty grave of St. Francis Xavier. Nearby we examined the Porto de Santiago, the only remaining structure from the 16th century fort built to celebrate the Portuguese conquest of the Malacca Sultanate.

The tour was interesting but after a while I wanted to get out among the people who live in the city. To have some time alone to relax and observe everyday life. At a convenient stop I arranged to explore on my own; I would meet the group later on back at the dock.

Map in hand – thanks to an on-board briefing the previous night – I crossed a bridge over the pretty, narrow river onto a noisy, high-traffic street jammed with Chinese shops and restaurants, their wares pushed into the space where a sidewalk might otherwise have provided easy passage for pedestrians. This was vibrant Jonker Street, originally established by early traders from China.

With care, I picked my way from door to door, inhaling delicious cooking aromas, and then turned back across the bridge where a passageway gave access to a quiet riverside



surroundings. Which one should I choose to give me a lift to the dock? Having settled on a Pink Panther theme to match the colour of my blouse, I enjoyed a chat with the driver, a young man who pedalled all the way almost effortlessly. The price was a reasonable \$10 US.

On board again, hearing from my fellow travellers, I almost regretted my solitary diversion, because of which I had missed seeing the Zheng He Museum, dedicated to the Chinese admiral's visits to Malacca in the early 15th century. Another attraction the others had liked was the Melaka Sultanate Palace, a replica of the Palace of Sultan Mansur Shah who ruled Malacca from 1456 to 1477. Still, I was content to have met a few local residents and enjoyed the beauty of the riverside.

Overnight we were at sea, arriving at the island of Penang, Malaysia, around 1:00 pm Thursday the 25th.



My Malaysia Experience

In an interview, sisters Kathleen and Jolie Lord shared about their family trip to Malaysia



1. Tell us about yourself.

We are both born and raised in a bilingual city in New-Brunswick, Canada. We are a family of seven - five siblings of three boys and two girls. We are both currently studying in University of Ottawa.

Kathleen: I'm a 2nd year student Political Science.



Julie: And I'm a 4th year student in International studies and modern languages.

We both really love travelling, learning new languages. In our spare time we enjoy cooking, walking downtown and going to dance classes. We would love to work in the international relations field and travel all around the world.

2. When did you visit Malaysia?

We went to Malaysia twice, in 2008 and in 2009. We were accompanying our uncle on his business trip. During the first trip, Julie travelled to Malaysia with our dad, brother and uncle. The second trip was with both of us, our dad and uncle.

3. Which part of Malaysia did you visit?

In the 2009 trip we arrived to Malaysia from China. We spent the first night in Kuala Lumpur, and then the next day we flew to Kota Kinabalu. We stayed over there for two days; afterwards, we took the ferry to Labuan with a layover in Brunei. We spent two days in Brunei and after we travelled back to Kota Kinabalu to stay the night over there. The next day we flew back to Kuala Lumpur where we stayed two days before



flying back to China.

4. Was the visit part of a Southeast Asia tour?

Yes. In 2008, we also travelled to Singapore, China and Japan. While in 2009 we also visited China and Brunei. The two trips we did in Asia lasted around 21 days each.

5. Which part of Malaysia did you like the most? And why?

Our favorite destination in Malaysia was Borneo Island. The scenery was absolutely beautiful. We loved the weather and nature over there. Travelling by boat was really an unforgettable experience. The people on the island were very welcoming and nice.

6. Did you try any Malaysian cuisine?

We ate a lot of seafood, raw fish and squid. We also tried a few sweets like Bahulu and Cendol. Everything was delicious!

We also tried durian... what an experience!

7. Tell us more about this 'durian experience'

Well, it's no secret that the fruit has a really strong smell. The first time we tried it, the smell got stuck on us until we were back at the resort.

Julie: I can really smell durian on my dad and brother who were way over there swimming, from the hotel room's balcony.

Kathleen: I ended up making a presentation in my English class about durian.

Suffice to say, it's definitely a 'once-in-a-lifetime experience' (*laugh*)

8. Tell us your favourite Malaysian:

- **Food:** Fresh fruits (dragon fruit and other tropical fruits that are not common in Canada)
- **Drinks:** Guava and watermelon juice.
- **Dessert:** Can't recall the name, but there's this delicious some kind of sweet beans in jell-o/gelatin with coconut we had in a restaurant my uncle's friend brought us to in Kota Kinabalu
- **Hotel/Accommodation:** Sutera Harbour Resort. Although in future trips we would love to stay in a cabin on a small island.
- **Activity:** Boat rides and walking in the city



9. What was the best part that you like about your visit?

Seeing and trying so many different things that got us out of our comfort zone. We preferred the nature. The climate and the sceneries are very different from Canada. Malaysian nature is very unique and beautiful. We also became fond of this peculiar long-nosed monkeys – we even gave them a nickname - 'Moutan'.

10. Was there anything else you wished you did to fully 'experience' Malaysia?

We would have loved to spend more time in Malaysia. We wish we could have explored more the cities and try more local food. Also climbing Mount Kinabalu would have been an amazing experience (something we didn't get the chance to do in our previous trips).

11. Did you pick up any Malaysian words? Name any you can remember!

Of course! *Terima kasih* (Thank you), *Tolong* (Please), *Ya* (Yes), *Tidak* (No), *Selamat Pagi* (Good Morning), and *Selamat Petang* (Good Evening)

12. Any other specific/ funny/ strange/ awkward experience in Malaysia you wish to share?

Julie: during my first trip in 2008, I almost got attacked by a monkey at the Batu Caves. While going down the stairs, I missed a stair and my next step did a very loud noise. Next to me on the rail was a female monkey with her baby, the noise scared her and I thought she was going to jump on me.

Kathleen: In our 2009 trip, after many hours of travels, we arrived at the



international ferry terminal in Labuan. We entered and heard a couple speak with a French Canadian accent. it was such an unreal situation for us because we were at more than 30 hours of travel away from home. At that moment the world felt so small.

13. Would you come back to visit Malaysia in the future?

Definitely! We would love to learn and experience more of the Malaysian culture in our future visit.

Kathleen and Julie Lord
New Brunswick, Canada



Round-up in pictures



Farewell events of ACO Members coordinated by High Commission of Malaysia



Year-End Gathering Event: Colours of Malaysia, 2 December 2016



Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Special Chiefs Assembly, 6-8 December 2016



39th ICAO Assembly, 27 September – 7 October 2016



8th Annual International Food Fair, 17 November 2016





Meeting between Women Ambassadors with Senator Yonah Martin from British Columbia, 6 December 2016



Courtesy call by Pacific Northwest LNG CEO and officials at Rumah Malaysia, 31 August 2016



ASEAN Picnic 2016 coordinated by Malaysia, Vincent Massey Park, 29



Hari Raya Picnic @ Rockcliffe Park, 15 July 2016

Keeping in Touch

with the High Commission of Malaysia

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Selamat Datang & Selamat Tinggal

(Hellos & Goodbyes)

Welcoming new members

Joel S. Jardenico, Caretaker (starting 15 September 2016)

Bidding farewell to:

Henry Balloghan, Caretaker (left 31 July 2016)

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