



Embassy of Malaysia, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

AXBOROT

[e-newsletter]

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January—June 2016

Issue 1/2016

From the Ambassador's Office

Assalamualaikum and my sincere greetings to all. It is half way into the year of 2016 and similar to previous years, the Embassy of Malaysia in Tashkent has been occupied with colorful events and activities to develop relations with the Uzbekistanis and the international community present in this country.

We received several visits from Malaysia ranging from academicians, sportsmen, exhibitors and education practitioners to participate in various international events organized by the Government of Uzbekistan.

The Embassy also shared the Malaysian culture, food and language with the Uzbek society through various events

and activities which took place during this first half of the year.

I thought that these events and activities by the Embassy would best be shared in our very first edition of e-Newsletter.

The Embassy decided to call it 'Axborot' (pronounced as Akh-bo-rot) which means a collection of news in Uzbek language. In Malaysian native language, the word Akhbar (pronounced almost similar to Axborot) also means news. Thus, the title of this e-Newsletter symbolizes the similarities between Malaysia and Uzbekistan which have been the foundation of our friendship since the establishment of diplomatic relations



Ambassador Dato' Nor'Aini Abd. Hamid, Ambassador of Malaysia to Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan

between our two countries in 1992.

I hope this e-Newsletter will not be just a source of sharing information regarding the Embassy's activities but rather, as a window to Malaysia's representation in Uzbekistan.

We have Moved!

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National Football Goalkeeper Coach Gave a Trainer Seminar

Coach Kris Yong Wai Hwang, the goalkeeper coach for Malaysian National Football Team was in Tashkent from January 26 to February 1, 2016 in his capacity as an Asian Football Confederation (AFC)’s licensed trainer to give seminar and coaching sessions to the coaches from the Uzbekistan Football Federation.

On January 31, Coach Kris was invited to a luncheon hosted by Ambassador Dato’ Nor’Aini which was held at the Ambassador’s Residence. All Home Based Staff and their respective spouse attended the luncheon.



Kris Yong Wai Hwang (four from left) with the Ambassador, Home Based Staff and their spouse

Malaysia Men’s Futsal Team Participated in the 14th AFC Futsal Championship

Malaysian National Men’s Futsal Team arrived in Tashkent on 5 February 2016 to participate in the 14th AFC Futsal Championship which took place from 9—21 February 2016. The team of 20 players was led by Coach Marcelo Serpa and accompanied by four other officials from the Football Association of Malaysia (FAM).



Malaysia vs Australia

This was Malaysia’s 11th appearance in this continental competition after finishing as a runner-up in Group A of the ASEAN Zone qualifying round in Bangkok, October last year. Other teams qualified to the 2016

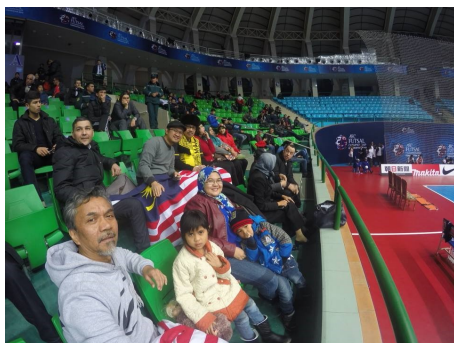
AFC Championship from the ASEAN Football Federation region were Thailand and Vietnam.

Malaysia was placed in Group D together with Australia, Japan and Qatar. Although Malaysia did not manage to proceed to the next round of the tournament, the players had put up their best to be competitive and displayed excellent sportsmanship.

The Ambassador also hosted a luncheon to the Team at her residence on 8 February 2016. She also took the team for a taste of local cuisine at the Plov Center which is located not far from the tournament venue.



The National Futsal Team at the Ambassador’s Residence



Upholding the spirit of ‘Malaysia Boleh!’



Savoring the delicious Uzbek cuisine “Plov”

Being a sport enthusiast, Ambassador Dato’ Nor’Aini Abd. Hamid led the Embassy’s Home Based Staff and their family members to cheer and support the National Team in all the three matches which took place on 11, 13 and 15 February 2016.

Interactive Session with *Bahasa Malaysia* Students from the Tashkent State Institute of Oriental Studies



Participants with the Ambassador, HBS and their families

A total of 30 students and their teacher, Mr. Erkin Bekkulov from the *Bahasa Malaysia* Faculty of the Tashkent State Institute of Oriental Studies gathered at the Ambassador's Residence on 27 February 2016 for an interactive session with the Embassy's Home Based Staff and their families. These students were mostly in their first year and took *Bahasa Malaysia* as their main foreign language.

The main objective of this event was to create an opportunity for the students to interact and practice the language learned with native speakers. The Embassy prepared two friendly competitions—public speaking and karaoke singing in *Bahasa Malaysia*.

Apart from that, they also had a chance to savor some Malaysian traditional food such as *nasi goreng*, fried noodles, curry puff, sweet cakes and other desserts wholly prepared by the Embassy's Home Based Staff.



Crooning to Siti Nurhaliza's 'Bukan Cinta Biasa'

This event was part of the Embassy's effort to promote *Bahasa Malaysia*, which was once the *Lingua Franca* among the traders during the era of the Sultanate of Malacca.



The Ambassador presented a memento to Mr. Erkin Bekkulov

Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MPOC) Participated in the WorldFood Uzbekistan 2016 Exhibition

The Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MPOC) was in Tashkent to participate in the WorldFood Uzbekistan 2016 Exhibition which took place in the UzExpo Center from 16 to 18 March 2016. The delegation of five exhibitors was led by Mr. Faudzy Asfarudeen Sayed Mohamed, Director of Marketing and Market Development. Also joined at the MPOC booth were representatives from two Malaysian palm oil major suppliers—Felda Global Ventures and Southern Edible Oil.

Ambassador Dato' Nor'Aini attended the Exhibition's opening ceremony and spent more than two hours visiting the MPOC booth and the Expo Center on 16 March 2016, where she had a fruitful discussion regarding Malaysian palm oil industry in Uzbekistan.

On 17 March 2016, the delegation held a networking dinner attended by more than 30 key players in food industry from all over Uzbekistan.



The Ambassador was having a discussion with Mr. Faudzy at the MPOC's booth

Malaysian Universities Participated in the Myfair International Education Exhibition in Tashkent, Samarkand and Bukhara

Three universities i.e. the University of Technology Malaysia (UTM), the Asia Pacific University of Technology Malaysia (APU) and INTI International University and College (INTI) participated in the Myfair International Education Exhibition organized by the Russian Agency for International Coop-



From left: Prof. Dr. Othman Che Puan, Prof. Ir. Dr. Mohd Azraai Kassim and Mr. Mohd Fadzli Mohd Radzi at the Embassy

UTM delegation was led by Prof. Ir. Dr. Mohd Azraai Kassim, Prof. Dr. Othman Che Puan and Mr. Zulkifli Osman, who also visited the Embassy on 21 April 2016.



Mr. Kamil Abd. Ghani, Second Secretary visited the UTM's booth at the exhibition in Tashkent

eration in Uzbekistan. The exhibition was held in three major cities in Uzbekistan namely Tashkent, Samarkand and Bukhara from 22 to 27 April 2016.



Interested students at the Malaysian universities booths

This was the first time for UTM, a public university based in Johor Bharu, to participate in education event in Uzbekistan. The

Promoting Bahasa Malaysia at the Uzbekistan State World Languages University

While the Ambassador was away on official matter, the Charge d'Affaires ad Interim, Mr. Mohd Fadzli Mohd Radzi was at the Uzbekistan State World Languages University (USWLU) on 16 April 2016 to promote Bahasa Malaysia. He was invited by Mr. Erkin Bekkulov who teaches the Malaysian National Language at the USWLU.



Part of the audience

This program was specially organized by the USWLU's management in order to assist its first year students in deciding which foreign language to take as one of their compulsory subjects.

The program was attended by around 40 first year students who showed their interest in the language. The event was also attended by several final year Bahasa Malaysia students who wanted to encourage their juniors in learning the language.



Mr. Mohd Fadzli with Mr. Erkin Bekkulov and the final year Bahasa Malaysia students who came to support the event

Working Visit by the Vice Chancellor of the Islamic Science University of Malaysia



The USIM delegation arrived at Tashkent International Airport

Professor Dato' Dr. Musa Ahmad, Vice Chancellor of the Islamic Science University of Malaysia (*Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia—USIM*) and a delegation of 3 other Professors undertook a 7-day working visit to Uzbekistan from 13 to 19 May 2016. The visit was aimed at identifying potential cooperation between USIM and Uzbekistan's local universities. Apart from Tashkent, the delegates also visited the universities in Samarkand and Bukhara.



Prof. Dato' Dr. Musa Ahmad (second from left) with the Ambassador (second from right)

While in Tashkent, the delegation were invited for luncheon at the Ambassador's residence on 19 May 2016.

Malaysian National Men's Weightlifting Participated in the Asian Weightlifting Qualifying Championship for Olympics 2016

Eight weightlifters and six officials from the Malaysian National Weightlifting Federation were in Tashkent to participate in the Asian Weightlifting Qualifying Championship for the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro from 21 to 30 April 2016. The team was led by its manager, Mr. Abu Hanapah bin Ismail. By the end of the tournament, the National Team managed to secure one of seven spots offered to the Asian nations to compete in the upcoming Olympics game.



Mohd Hafifi Mansor, a Malaysian weightlifter who will represent Malaysia in Rio Games 2016.

Photo source: Berita Harian



Luncheon hosted by the Embassy at a local restaurant

International Food and Cultural Festival



His Excellency Khakimov Dilyor, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan was served satay by the Ambassador

The Embassy of Malaysia in Tashkent once again participated in the International Food and Cultural Festival organized by the Diplomatic Service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan. This colorful event was held on 14 May 2016 at the historic and scenic MFA's Guest House which is



Satay cooking live demonstration



PERWAKILAN led by the Ambassador herself

located not far from Mustakiliq (Independence) Square.

This festival was the most anticipated event by the diplomatic corps every year as they had a chance to share their traditional cuisine and culture with the international community and the locals.

This year, the Embassy of Malaysia prepared a live demonstration of satay cooking which attracted the crowd to visit our stall. They were amazed by our cooking method which seemed similar to how the locals prepare their 'shahlik' but with a different variation.

Other than satay, visitors to our corner had a chance to savor our tasty spring rolls, an assortment of cakes and Malaysian favorite drink, *teh tarik* (milk tea). The food was prepared by the Ladies Association of the Embassy (PERWAKILAN).



We also had spring rolls cooking demonstration

Boxing Team from the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur—Training in Tashkent



The team with members of one of the local boxing clubs

A group of athletes and officials from the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur Boxing Team was in Tashkent from 16 to 20 May 2016 to practice with the members of the local boxing clubs and participate in friendly matches. This visit was part of the preparation by the Kuala Lumpur Boxing Team towards the 16th SUKMA Games which is scheduled to be held in Sarawak in July 2016.



Friendly match

Ms. Anita Yusof, Malaysian Female Solo Rider on Road Tour of Uzbekistan

A Malaysian female solo rider, Ms. Anita Yusof arrived in Tashkent on 28 June 2016. She is currently on her quest to set a world record as the first Muslim woman to travel solo around the world on a motorcycle.

She started her expedition (also known as Global Dream Ride) in Seattle, United States of America on 16 September 2015. A lecturer by profession and also a mother of two, she has travelled more than 47,000 kilometers across more than 30 countries and several continents.

This was not the first time for Ms. Anita to be in Tashkent. Three years ago, she visited this beautiful city during her solo motorcycle expedition to the Central Asian region.

Her visit to Tashkent was warmly received by Ambassador Dato' Nor'Aini who was also a former rider herself. Ms. Anita was also invited by the Ambassador to stay at her residence while in Tashkent.



Interviewed by Uzbek media

In conjunction with the festive season of Eid ul-Fitr, the Ambassador had invited Ms. Anita to celebrate this auspicious occasion with her and the Malaysian community in Tashkent. However, Ms. Anita had to exit Tashkent 3 days before the festival due to the expiration of her Uzbek visa. This brought upon a fortunate turn of event where she was able to experience a double celebration of Eid ul-Fitr in 2 countries in 2 consecutive days, i.e on the 5th July in Almaty, Kazakhstan and on the 6th July in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.



Celebrating Eid ul-Fitr with Malaysian community in Tashkent

According to Ms. Anita, when she started her journey nine months ago, it never crossed her mind that she will have a chance to celebrate a proper Eid ul-Fitr



With Ambassador Dato' Nor'Aini at Hazrati Imam

with the Malaysian community, and far be it for a double celebration.

Ms. Anita's journey also attracted the attention of Uzbekistan TV and Donya TV which conducted separate interviews with her.

She left Uzbekistan on 11 July 2016 to continue her journey to Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Russia before returning home to Malaysia. With approximately 15,000 kilometers left, she expects to complete her journey and reach her final destination on 16 September 2016 to commemorate the Malaysia Day.

The Embassy of Malaysia in Tashkent wishes her all the best, a safe journey and hopes that her dream will be achieved.



Ms. Anita Yusof with the Ambassador in front of her residence



Flagged-off by the Ambassador before Ms. Anita left Tashkent

Disclaimer: Most of the photos in this page were taken from Ms. Anita Yusof's Facebook Page

Ambassador's Working Visit to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Ambassador Dato' Nor'Aini was in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan for an official task and familiarization of the country from 31 May to 2 June 2016. Accompanied by Mr. Mohd Fadzli Mohd Radzi, Second Secretary and a driver, it took them 13 hours non-stop to travel from Tashkent to Bishkek by road due to some constructions and repair works on the highways in Kazakhstan.

While in Bishkek, the Ambassador was warmly received by Mr. Bakyt Kazakbaev who is the Founder/CEO of Azat Overseas Co. Ltd., a subsidiary company of Azat Corporation, the leading construction company in Kyrgyzstan.

Mr. Kazakbaev also owns a convenient shop where he sells Malaysian products which he imports directly from Malaysia. In fact, his store uses "Malaysia" name on its sign board. Ambassador Dato' Nor'Aini had a chance to visit this outlet which is located on a very

strategic place in the city center of Bishkek. According to Mr. Kazakbaev, he plans to develop his outlet as a hub to not only promoting Malaysian products in Kyrgyzstan, but also act as a one stop center for locals to seek information regarding Malaysia.

On 1 June 2016. Ambassador Dato' Nor'Aini had a lunch meeting with Mr. Daniyov Sydykov, the State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan where they discussed the potential bilateral cooperation between Malaysia and Kyrgyzstan.



The Ambassador with the local businessmen who are also Friends of Malaysia



From left: Mr. Mohd Fadzli, Ambassador Dato' Nor'Aini and Mr. Kazakbaev in front of "Malaysia" convenient store in Bishkek



With Mr. Daniyov Sydykov (third from left) during a working lunch meeting

PHOTO GALLERY



Ambassador Dato' Nor'Aini chairing the Embassy of Malaysia Ladies Association (PERWAKILAN)'s Annual General Meeting on 21 January 2016



Interactive Session with the Bahasa Malaysia Students at Ambassador's Residence on 27 February 2016.



Ambassador Dato' Nor'Aini with the Bahasa Malaysia Students during the Interactive Session at her Residence



Ambassador Dato' Nor'Aini and His Excellency Anak Agung Gde Alit Santhika, Ambassador of Indonesia to Uzbekistan at the Malaysian Palm Oil Council's booth during the WorldFood Exhibition on 16 March 2016



A courtesy visit to the Ambassador's Residence by Officials from the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur who accompanied the boxing team



Officials from the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur with the Ambassador at her Residence



The Ambassador with a group of Malaysian bloggers who visited Uzbekistan in May 2016, led by Datuk Akmar Hisham Mokhles, Press Secretary to the Prime Minister



A courtesy visit to the Embassy by the representatives from four Malaysian universities who participated in the Education Exhibition in April 2016



The Officials from the Malaysian National Weightlifting Federation during the Asian Weightlifting Qualifying Championship for the Olympics, April 2016



The Ambassador with the Home Based and Local Staff of the Embassy at the former Chancery building before moving to new site