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From the Ambassador's Office

Dear readers,

2016 has been another productive year for the Embassy of Malaysia in Tashkent. In the second half of 2016, we received His Excellency Dato' Sri Anifah Aman, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia who was on a working visit to Tashkent to participate in the 43rd Session of the Islamic Council of Foreign Ministers from 17 to 19 October 2016.

Tourism Malaysia (TM) participated at the UzExpo in Tashkent in October this year. The Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) on the other hand organized a roundtable meeting with the local business community.

In the sphere of education, the Education Malaysia Global Services (EMGS), a company wholly-owned by the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia, participated for the first time at the Inter-

national Education Exhibition along with five other Malaysian private universities.

We at the Embassy view positively on the increasing involvement of the Malaysian Government-linked agencies in this region as it could be the stepping stone for other agencies to emulate in the coming years.

We look forward to celebrating the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Uzbekistan and Malaysia in 2017.



Ambassador Dato' Nor'Aini Abd. Hamid

EMBASSY OF MALAYSIA, TASHKENT
56—58 TAFAKKUR STREET
YAKKASARAY DISTRICT
100031 TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN
Phone: (+99871)2540961 / 2563027 / 2563299
Fax: (+99871)2523071
Email: mwtashkent.kln@1govuc.gov.my

Website: www.kln.gov.my/web/uzb_tashkent/home
Facebook: @MalaysianEmbassyTashkent

Tourism Malaysia Participated in Tashkent International Tourism Fair 2016



Tourism Malaysia (TM) based in Almaty, Kazakhstan participated in the Tashkent International Tourism Fair which was held at UzExpo Exhibition Center from 5 to 7 October 2016. The Malaysian delegation was led by Ms. Norliza Md. Zain, Director of Tourism Malaysia in Almaty.

Like previous years, TM brought several Malaysian tour operators to promote the Malaysian tourism industry in this region.

On the first day of the exhibition, visitors to TM's booth had a chance to enjoy the spectacular Malaysian traditional dances such as Zapin, Joget and Dikir Barat. The dances were performed by a group of local dancers led by Ms. Mamlakat Ulasheva, who received training from Malaysian trainers under the TM's initiative.

The Charge d'Affaires a.i., Mr. Mohd Fadzli Mohd Radzi was also invited to join Ms. Norliza to officiate the Malaysian booth. He also joined the dinner hosted by TM for the Malaysian tour operators participating in the event at Marmaris Restaurant.



Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) Organized a Roundtable Meeting with the Local Business Community



The Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) with cooperation with the Tashkent City Chamber of Commerce and the Entrepreneurs Movement of the Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan organized a roundtable meeting with several Uzbekistani local companies on 10 October 2016 at Miran International Hotel. The objective was to highlight MATRADE’s roles, functions and Malaysia’s market promotion to local businessmen.

A total of 23 companies specializing in automotive, construction, furniture and textile industries

participated in this meeting. Mr. Mohd Fadzli Mohd Radzi, Charge d’Affaires a.i delivered the opening remarks for the event.

Mr. Abdulaziz Yunusov, MATRADE’s Marketing Officer in Uzbekistan acted as the moderator. According to Mr. Yunusov, Uzbekistan is ranked third among all countries in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and first among Central Asia as Malaysia’s trading partner.



Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia Visited Tashkent for the 43rd Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC (ICFM)



His Excellency Dato' Sri Anifah Aman, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, accompanied by several senior officials of the Ministry, arrived in Tashkent on 17 October 2016 to participate in the 43rd Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Conference (43rd ICFM) which was held from 18 to 19 October 2016. This was his second visit to Uzbekistan as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia. His last visit to the country was in 2010.

Apart from His Excellency Foreign Minister, the 43rd ICFM was also attended by His Excellency Tan Sri Dr. Syed Hamid Albar who is currently the Special Envoy of the Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) for Myanmar. His Excellency Tan Sri Dr. Syed Hamid was the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia from 1999 to 2008.



The Education Malaysia Global Services (EMGS) Participated in the International Study Uzbekistan Exhibition (ISUE)



This was the EMGS maiden participation in an education exhibition in Uzbekistan. According to Mr. Raja Muhammad Fariz, Malaysia has become a popular destination for Uzbekistani students to pursue their tertiary education. In the past few years, the number of Malaysian public and private universities taking part in the education exhibitions held in Uzbekistan has also increased significantly. Most of these universities even offer a number of scholarships for the new students.

The EMGS participation in this Exhibition demonstrated the importance of Uzbekistan to Malaysia in education sector and it is hoped that it will open door for more Malaysian universities, especially the government universities to come to promote education.

The Education Malaysia Global Services (EMGS), a company wholly-owned by the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia was in Tashkent to participate in the International Study Uzbekistan Exhibition (ISUE) which was held from 3 – 5 November 2016 at the “Kamolot” Palace of Youth Creativity. The EMGS was represented by its Project Operations Senior Executive, Mr. Raja Muhamad Fariz Raja Eyuddin. Also participated in the Exhibition under the auspices of the EMGS were five Malaysian private universities namely the Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation, Manipal International University, INTI International University & College, Berjaya University College of Hospitality and Quest International University Perak. Her Excellency Ambassador Dato' Nor'Aini Abd. Hamid was also invited to jointly officiate the Exhibition on 3 November 2016.



Malaysian Observers for the Presidential Election in Uzbekistan



Seven observers from Malaysia were invited by the Government of Uzbekistan to witness the Presidential Election which took place on 4 December 2016. They were H.E. Senator Datuk Seri Haji Abdul Halim Abd Samad (Deputy President of the Senate), H.E. Senator Datuk Seri Boon Som Inong, (Member of the Senate), H.E. Senator Dato' Haji Mohd Salim Sharif (Member of the Senate), H.E. Tan Sri Abu Zahar Nika Ujang (former President of the Senate), H.E. Datuk Wira Wan Ahmad Wan Omar (former Chairman of the Election Commission of Malaysia), H.E. Professor Dato' Joseph Adaikalam (President of the Binary University) and H.E. Professor Dato' Dr. Mohd Yusof Othman (Director of the Institute of Islam Hadhari, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia - UKM)

The delegation from Malaysian Parliament also had two separate meetings with the Deputy Chairman of the Senate and Speaker of the Legislative of Uzbekistan. The delegation from the Parliament was accompanied by Ambassador Dato' Nor'Aini during their meetings in Tashkent.



MTCP Alumni and Friends of Malaysia's Gathering



banking. These participants formed an alumni group under the Embassy of Malaysia in Tashkent.

On 11 July 2016, the Embassy of Malaysia organized a gathering for the MTCP alumni which took place at the Embassy's new building. This event was attended by 90 guests who had participated in the MTCP courses in the past years. Also present at this event were the distinguished guests from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Businesswomen Association of Uzbekistan and the Chamber of Commerce.

All MTCP Alumni looked forward to this event as they could reunite with their former course mates, exchange news and widen their network. Moreover, through this event, the alumni could once again savor the taste of Malaysian food which they tried during their short stint in Malaysia as well as to get the latest updates from the Embassy.

During the event, Ambassador Dato' Nor'Aini also announced the establishment of Friends of Malaysia, a friendship community under the Embassy of Malaysia in Tashkent which serves as a medium to unite the Embassy and locals who have interest in Malaysia.

Malaysia through the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme has been actively sharing its development experiences and expertise with other developing countries, including Uzbekistan. Since 1994, over 400 participants from Uzbekistan governmental agencies has benefitted from the trainings under this program, covering various areas which are essential for the country's development such as public administration, good governance, health services, education, sustainable development, agriculture, poverty alleviation, investment promotion, ICT, taxation and



The Embassy of Malaysia's Annual Family Day



The Annual Family Day of the Embassy of Malaysia in Tashkent was held on 27 August 2016 in conjunction with the National Days of Malaysia and Uzbekistan which were celebrated back to back on 31 August and 1 September respectively. It was held at the resort and club house under the Ministry of Development of Information Technologies and Communications of the Republic of Uzbekistan which is located in Aktash, approximately 70 kilometer from Tashkent city center. A total of 50 persons consisted of the Embassy's staff and their family members attended this annual gathering.

This year's event achieved its main objectives in bringing the staff and their respective family members closer, to promote the spirit of team building and to foster cross culture understanding between the Embassy's staff as on big family.



Malaysia's National Sports Day 2016

In conjunction with the Malaysia's National Sports Day celebrated on 8 October 2016, the Embassy of Malaysia in Tashkent held two activities i.e. Morning Exercise and friendly table tennis match. This event was participated by all the Embassy's staff and their family members.



The UN Day Celebration at Tashkent International School

The Embassy of Malaysia once again took part in the United Nation's Day Celebration organized by the Tashkent International School (TIS). Like previous years, the Embassy used this opportunity to showcase Malaysian food and culture. During the event, we also demonstrated Malaysian traditional games i.e. *congkak* and *batu seremban*.



Flagged-Off the Quartet on a Journey “Kembara Memburu Hikmah”

On 22 December 2016, the Ambassador and all staff of the Embassy flagged-off the quartet who are on a journey “Kembara Memburu Hikmah” to perform the *Umrah* and *Ziarah* in Saudi Arabia. The group consists of a couple cyclists Mr. Ahmad Mohd Isa and Mrs. Noradilah Mohd Sapie and accompanied by Mr. Amirul Ariff A. Wahab and Mr. Mohd Nur Aiman Mohd Zaid who are backpackers and making a travelogue of the project. Apart from realizing their dream in performing the *Umrah*, their objective is to promote and convey the message of peace, enrich their knowledge and data collection on Islamic heritage and sites, places of worship, history and civilization of the countries they passed through.



Ambassador's Interviews with Toshkent TV Channel and the Uzbekistan National News Agency



tural and historical heritage following her travel to several places in the country. At the end of the interview, the Ambassador extended her warm wishes to the people of Uzbekistan and congratulated them on the country's 25th Anniversary of Independence.

Her Excellency Ambassador was also interviewed by the Uzbekistan National News Agency. The interview was published on 9 August 2016 on the News Agency's website at the following link: http://uza.uz/oz/society/dato-norayni-binti-abd-amid-zbekiston-25-yilda-oyat-ulkan-ta-09-08-2016?sphrase_id=1498608

Her Excellency Ambassador Dato' Nor'Aini made an appearance in "Poytaxt Intervyu" TV program which was aired on Toshkent TV Channel on 29 August 2016. The TV program was in conjunction with the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of Independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

During the interview, the Ambassador mentioned on several similarities in culture and tradition shared by our two countries and that we both gained independence on 31st August. However, Uzbekistan officially celebrates this occasion on 1st September every year. She shared her opinion on Uzbekistan's overall achievement especially in business & economics, housing & building development as well as infrastructure & transportation. She also shared her experience and admiration of Uzbekistan's rich cul-



Ambassador Attended the Memorial Service and Signing the Condolence Book on the demise of the Late President Islam Karimov

On 3 September 2016, the nation of Uzbekistan was shrouded in deep grief and sorrow as they bade farewell to Islam Abduganiyevich Karimov, their first president of 25 years at a state funeral ceremony held in Samarkand, the city he was born. The late president died on 2 September 2016 after a stroke at the age of 78.

Ambassador Dato' Nor'Aini travelled with other Uzbekistan's senior government officials, foreign heads of mission and representatives of international organizations by train to Samarkand to attend the mourning and memorial ceremony at the International Forum Palace. In line with the Muslim rites, the prayer was held in the Tilloqori Madrasah, within the Registon complex and the body was later laid to rest in the area within Hazrati Hizir mosque, close to Shahi Zinda cemetery, where his parents' graves were also there.

After the services, H.E. Ambassador paid her condolences, on behalf of the Government and peoples of Malaysia to Madame Tatyana Karimova, widow of the late president and daughter, Mrs. Lola Karimova-Tillyaeva. The country declared a three day mourning as a tribute to the loss of their first president and flags were flown at half-mast within Uzbekistan and at all its Missions abroad.

On Sunday, 4 September 2016, H.E. Ambassador Dato' Nor'Aini Abd Hamid signed the condolence book on the passing away of the late President Karimov at the Senate in Tashkent. After paying her respect, H.E. Ambassador personally conveyed condolence messages to the Chairman of the Senate, Prime Minister and other Cabinet Members present at the Senate. The public also had the opportunity to pay their last respect at the same venue.



Meeting with the Minister of Culture and Sports of Uzbekistan



On 21 September 2016, Ambassador Dato' Nor'Aini Abd Hamid had a Meeting with H.E. Bahodir Ahmedov, Minister of Culture and Sports of Uzbekistan to discuss on possible cooperation in the areas of tourism and sports. Apart from the plan for next year's celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Malaysia and Uzbekistan, both sides discussed to work on a two-year future plan for the enhancement and progress of culture and sports.

Meeting with the Representatives of Lim Kok Wing University



Ms. Jannat Abdurakhmonova and Ms. Aiman Kinzhiyeva of Lim Kok Wing University (LKWU) paid courtesy call on the Ambassador on 23 September 2016. They were in Tashkent to participate in the International Education and Career Exhibition which took place from 22 to 24 September 2016.

Meeting with the Rector of the Academy of Public Administration under the President's Office



The Ambassador had a meeting with Dr. Mannon G. Aliev, Rector of the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan (APA) at the latter's office on 25 October 2016. The APA is the only institution in Uzbekistan which offers education and training in public administration for civil servants.

During the meeting, both sides discussed on potential cooperation between Malaysia and Uzbekistan in public administration particularly in sharing the best practices, trainings and development programs for government officials and exploring joint-activities which could be organized in the upcoming years.



Meeting with the Advisor of the Academy of the Public Administration

On 1 November 2016, Mr. Park Moon Kyu from the Academy of the Public Administration (APA) of the President's Academy called on Ambassador Dato' Nor'Aini Abd Hamid. Mr. Park, an officer from the National Human Resources Development Institute of the Republic of Korea is currently being seconded to APA as the Advisor for Reform Programs, an idea mooted by the late President Karimov. Based on his experience and networking with Malaysian civil servants before, he would like to explore collaboration between APA and some reputable Malaysian institutions in the areas of public administration, government delivery system and best practices.



International Vegetables and Fruits Fair



Uzbekistan held its first International Vegetables and Fruits Fair from 8 – 10 November 2016 at the UzExpo Center in Tashkent. H.E. Ambassador attended the opening ceremony on 8 November 2016 which was officiated by H.E. Ulugbek Rozukulov, Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan. The fair provided an avenue for Uzbek companies to showcase their products and find new foreign partners in the industry.



Youth Symphony Orchestra Concert

On 29 November 2016, the Ambassador attended the Youth Symphony Orchestra Concert held at the Uzbekistan International Forum Palace organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan. The Orchestra concert was held within the framework of the Golden Autumn (Oltin kuz) International Art Festival. The audiences were dazzled by the young talents with their selection of repertoire by eminent composers of world classics.



Dinner hosted for Malaysian Representatives attending the Education Expo



On Friday, 4 November 2016, the Ambassador hosted dinner at Jumanji Restaurant for Y.M. Raja Mohamad Fariz Raja Eyuddin, Senior Executive of Education Malaysia Global Services (EMGS); Mr. Jerry Lee Chee Hooi, Director of Sales and Marketing of Berjaya University College of Hospitality and Mr. Ananth Lachumanan, Deputy Director, Student Recruitment of Quest International University, Perak who were in Tashkent to participate in the International Study Uzbekistan Expo (ISUE) 2016.

Farewell Dinner in honor of the Ambassador of Turkey



The Ambassador hosted a farewell dinner in honor of H.E. Namik Guner Erpul, Ambassador of Turkey to Uzbekistan at 'Rumah Malaysia' on 30 November 2016. The guests were served Malaysian dishes such as Satay, 'Nasi Minyak', Chicken 'Rendang', Lamb Curry, Beef 'Serunding', 'Keropok', 'Acar' and 'Sagu Gula Melaka'.

Seminar organized by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan

The Ambassador attended a seminar organized by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan held at the Wyndham Hotel on 16 December 2016. All heads of foreign mission and international corporation based in Uzbekistan were invited to the event where several government officials from various agencies apprised the diplomatic community and corporate leaders on the economic reforms being carried out in Uzbekistan. In the margins of the Seminar, the Ambassador was interviewed by various TV channels including UzReportTV, Toshkent Channel and Davr.



Meeting with the CEO of Uzbek Leasing Company



On 19 December 2016, Ambassador Dato' Nor'Aini Abd Hamid had a meeting with Mr. Zafar B. Mustafaev, Chief Executive Officer of UzbekLeasing International AO at the Embassy. During the meeting, the two sides discussed on future cooperation and the way forward for 2017. This company has Maybank as its long-time partner of two decades in Uzbekistan.

Meeting the Vice Rector of Tashkent State Institute of Oriental Studies

Ambassador Dato' Nor'Aini had a meeting with Dr. Gulchehra Rikhsieva, Vice-Rector of Tashkent State Institute of Oriental Studies on 19 September 2016. The institute is one of the two tertiary institutions in Tashkent which teach Bahasa Malaysia as a foreign language amongst 18 other world languages. H.E. Ambassador expressed appreciation on the active participation of the students in promoting the Malay Language, particularly at the institute's annual "International Day" event and the interactive session held at Rumah Malaysia in February this year. As part of a collaborative effort between the institution and the Embassy in promoting Bahasa Malaysia to the students, Dr. Gulchehra welcomed the idea of having more interactive sessions with native speakers of the Embassy in the near future.

Working Lunch with the Ambassadors of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan

The Ambassador hosted a working lunch for H.E. Daniyar Sadykov, Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic and H.E. Sodik Imomi, Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan at Mona Restaurant on 1 November 2016. The meeting provided an opportunity for the Ambassador to touch base on the latest development in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan as she is concurrently accredited to these two countries.

Call by the new Ambassador of Czech Republic

The Ambassador received H.E. Jaroslav Siro, the new Ambassador of Czech Republic at the Embassy of Malaysia on 2 November 2016. During the meeting, both sides shared their experiences and discussed on the activities and programs available for participation by members of the diplomatic community and international organizations in Tashkent.

Call by the new Ambassador of Japan

H.E. Nobuaki Ito, Ambassador of Japan called on Ambassador Dato' Nor'Aini Abd. Hamid on 7 November 2016. The two Ambassadors exchanged notes of their experiences and looked forward to working closely with each other.

Conference on Women Entrepreneurship

In conjunction with the Women's Entrepreneurship Day, the Legislative Chamber of the Oily Majlis and Senate of Uzbekistan cooperated with the Association of Women Entrepreneurs of Uzbekistan (Tadbirkor Ayol) to co-jointly host the conference on women on 19 November 2016 at Wyndham Hotel. H.E. Ambassador attended the said conference on the "Role and Prospect of Development of Women Entrepreneurship in the Economy of Uzbekistan". The objective of the conference was to share information and educate the women on the legal, organizational development, welfare, projects, programs and social cooperation, thus enabling them to realize their potentials in jointly spearheading the economy and success of the country.