

# EMBASSY OF MALAYSIA PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC



Volume 2/2016

## MALAYSIA AND CZECH REPUBLIC BILATERAL RELATIONS

Malaysia and the Czech Republic celebrated 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations on 16 September 2016.

The second half of 2016 saw visits by YAB Dato' Sri Zamby Abdul Kadir, Chief Minister of Perak who was invited as a Guest of Honour at the 36<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Poets (WCP) on 16 September 2016 and the visit by YB Datuk Dr. Abu Bakar Mohd Diah, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) on 20 September 2016 to participate in the *Advancement Research on Circuit and Systems* (ARONCAS2016) and 2016 *Advancement on Informatics, Business and Management* (ADIBUM2016) Conference at the Hradec Kralove University.

As for trade relations, for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2016, total trade between Malaysia and the Czech Republic stood at EUR857.6 million. During this period, Malaysia remained the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest trading partner of the Czech Republic within ASEAN.

Malaysia's main imports from Czech Republic consists of electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, chemical materials and products and industry-specialised machinery. Meanwhile, major export items from Malaysia are office machines and automatic data-processing machines, electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, as well as telecommunications and sound-recording equipment.

Education ties between the two countries continues to strengthen in the second half of 2016. There are currently 112 registered Malaysian medical students in three universities in the Czech Republic namely Charles University in Prague and Hradec Kralove and the Palacky University in Olomouc.

Following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) and the University of Pardubice, two PhD. students from USM are currently pursuing their research in the area of physics and management at the University of Pardubice.



## 'Malaysia played key role in UNSC'

(By YB Dato' Sri Anifah Aman, Minister of Foreign Affairs, The Star, 22 December 2016)

*Malaysia's non-permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) will end on Dec 31, 2016. As the end of our membership nears, Datuk Seri Anifah Aman recalls the process that led to Malaysia securing a seat on the council from Jan 1, 2015, to Dec 31, 2016, as well as Malaysia's experience in carrying out its responsibilities while on the council.*

### The campaign

The campaign for Malaysia's non-permanent membership of the UNSC for the term 2015-2016 began immediately after we submitted and announced our candidature in June 2011.

Lobbying for the support of the other UN members was conducted through the ministry's engagement with the foreign diplomatic missions in Kuala Lumpur and representations made by our diplomats worldwide to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of their host or concurrently accredited countries.

Lobbying was also undertaken during bilateral meetings involving the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Deputy Foreign Minister and myself with foreign leaders and ministers during official visits or at the sidelines of major international meetings.

### The elections

The elections were held on Oct 16, 2014, at the UN General Assembly. Malaysia had to obtain a minimum number of 129 votes to be selected. We received 187 votes.



### **The membership**

Malaysia was fully committed and determined to carry out its responsibilities as a council member in fulfilling the mandate of the UNSC in a responsible manner.

We advocated five priorities – promote moderation as an approach in conflict resolution, promote mediation as a tool for the peaceful settlement of disputes, promote the enhancement of UN peacekeeping operations, support peace-building in countries emerging from conflict, and encourage continued discussion on UNSC reform. Other issues that were important to Malaysia included MH17, Palestine, humanitarian issues, counter-terrorism, and children and armed conflict.

Malaysia served as the President of the UNSC in June 2015 and August 2016. These were occasions for Malaysia to pursue initiatives on issues of importance to us.

In June 2015, Malaysia organised a high-level open debate on children and armed conflict.

Our resolution aimed at increasing accountability for perpetrators that committed abduction of children in situations of armed conflict was unanimously adopted by the UNSC and co-sponsored by 56 UN members. This will be one of Malaysia's lasting contributions to the UN system on the protection of children in conflict situations.

We also undertook initiatives to promote peace-building in post-conflict countries and to discuss the multiplier effects of climate change on international peace and security.

In August 2016, Malaysia organised a high-level open debate on weapons of mass destruction (WMD). It was chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi. It succeeded in raising awareness on the threat of WMD falling into the wrong hands, particularly terrorists', and the need for UN members to work together to prevent this from happening.

To ensure that the plight of the Palestinian people continue to receive the attention of the global community, Malaysia chaired three Arria-formula meetings on the situation in Gaza, protection for the people of Palestine and illegal Israeli settlements.

Malaysia's biggest disappointment was when our initiative on a draft resolution proposing the creation of an international tribunal to bring to justice those responsible for the downing of the MH17 failed due to the exercise of the veto.

I have found Malaysia's membership of the UNSC to be very enriching, professionally and personally. This will remain one of the most memorable experiences of my tenure as Foreign Minister.

### **The way forward**

As Malaysia completes its term on the council, we will continue to support the work of the UNSC and cooperate constructively with the wider UN membership in finding peaceful resolutions to conflicts. We will also continue to promote moderation as an approach to resolve conflicts peacefully.

### **Conclusion**

I have often been asked this question – how does Malaysia's membership of the UNSC benefit Malaysia and its people?

In today's globalised world, an event in one corner of the world could ricochet and impact other corners of the globe. As a trading nation, international peace and security is vital for Malaysia's continued development and prosperity. Membership of the UNSC accords Malaysia the opportunity to be directly involved in the maintenance of international peace and security. It allows Malaysia to promote and pursue our foreign policy objectives towards preserving a conducive, peaceful and secure global environment for the benefit of its people.

I would like to express my appreciation to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak for his leadership, guidance and trust. This has been invaluable to me and my officers.

I have found Malaysia's membership of the UNSC to be very enriching, professionally and personally. This will remain one of the most memorable experiences of my tenure as Foreign Minister.

**EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE SECOND HALF OF 2016**

**AIDIL FITRI CELEBRATION AT RUMAH  
MALAYSIA ON 6 JULY 2016**



**GRADUATION CEREMONY FOR  
MALAYSIAN MEDICAL STUDENTS IN  
FIRST FACULTY OF MEDICINE  
CHARLES UNIVERSITY ON 27 JULY 2016**



**INTERNATIONAL FLORA OLOMOUC  
SUMMER EXHIBITION ON 18 - 21  
AUGUST 2016**



**EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE SECOND HALF OF 2016**

**ASIA FOOD FEST, 10 SEPTEMBER 2016**



**ASEAN AMBASSADORS JOINT  
COURTESY CALL ON MINISTER OF  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE CZECH  
REPUBLIC, 13 SEPTEMBER 2016**



**5TH ASEAN FILM FESTIVAL, 13 - 17  
SEPTEMBER 2016**



**WORKING VISIT OF YB DEPUTY MINISTER OF MOSTI, 18 - 24 SEPTEMBER  
2016**



**EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE SECOND HALF OF 2016**

**ASEAN SEMINAR, BRNO, 5 OCTOBER  
2016**



**PERWAKILAN VISIT TO PETROF  
COMPANY, 2 NOVEMBER 2016**



**UiTM CHAMBER CHOIR (UCC) CONCERT, 30 OCTOBER 2016**



**EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE SECOND HALF OF 2016**

**JPA EXCELLENCE CIRCLE PROGRAMME AND DEEPAVALI CELEBRATION, 12 NOVEMBER  
2016**



**THE INTERNATIONAL CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL AT THE HILTON HOTEL, PRAGUE  
8, 27 NOVEMBER 2016**





## EMBASSY OF MALAYSIA, PRAGUE

LIST OF PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 2017

PUBLIC HOLIDAY		DATE	DAY	COUNTRY
1	New Year **	1 January	Sunday	M/CZ
2	Chinese New Year	28 January	Saturday	M
3	Chinese New Year **	29 January	Sunday	M
4	Good Friday	14 April	Friday	CZ
5	Easter Monday	17 April	Monday	CZ
6	Labour Day	1 May	Monday	M/CZ
7	Liberation Day	8 May	Monday	CZ
8	Birthday of His Majesty SPB Yang di-Pertuan Agong	3 June	Saturday	M
9	Hari Raya Puasa *	25 June	Sunday	M
10	Hari Raya Puasa *	26 June	Monday	M
11	St. Cyril and Methodius Day	5 July	Wednesday	CZ
12	Jan Hus Day	6 July	Thursday	CZ
13	National Day of Malaysia	31 August	Thursday	M
14	Aidil Adha (Hari Raya Korban) *	1 September	Friday	M
15	Malaysia Day	16 September	Saturday	M
16	Day of Czech Statehood	28 September	Thursday	CZ
17	Deepavali	18 October	Wednesday	CZ
18	Struggle for Freedom and Democracy Day	17 November	Friday	CZ
19	Christmas Day	25 December	Monday	M/CZ
20	St. Stephens Day	26 December	Tuesday	CZ

Notes:*M**Public Holiday in Malaysia**CZ**Public Holiday in the Czech Republic**Holiday marked (\*)**Subject to changes**Holidays marked (\*\*)**Should a holiday falls on Sunday or declared Public Holiday, The Embassy of Malaysia shall observe the holiday on the succeeding working day*



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