

ciao MALAYSIA

MwRome eNewsletter

BIL 6/ 2016





October – December 2016



HARI SUKAN NEGARA



HIGHLIGHTS

-  HARI SUKAN NEGARA
-  SEMINAR ON PALM OIL
-  ARTICLE BY TAN SRI KSU
-  CONSULAR INFORMATION

On 8 October 2016, the Embassy of Malaysia in Italy organized a sporting activity in line with the national level celebration of 'Hari Sukan Negara 2016'. All Home Based Staff and their families attended the event which was held at Agriturismo il Castoro. The event began at 10 am with a welcoming remark by TYT Dato' Abdul Samad Othman. Several sport activities were arranged for the staff and families to take part.



On Palm Oil and Sustainability



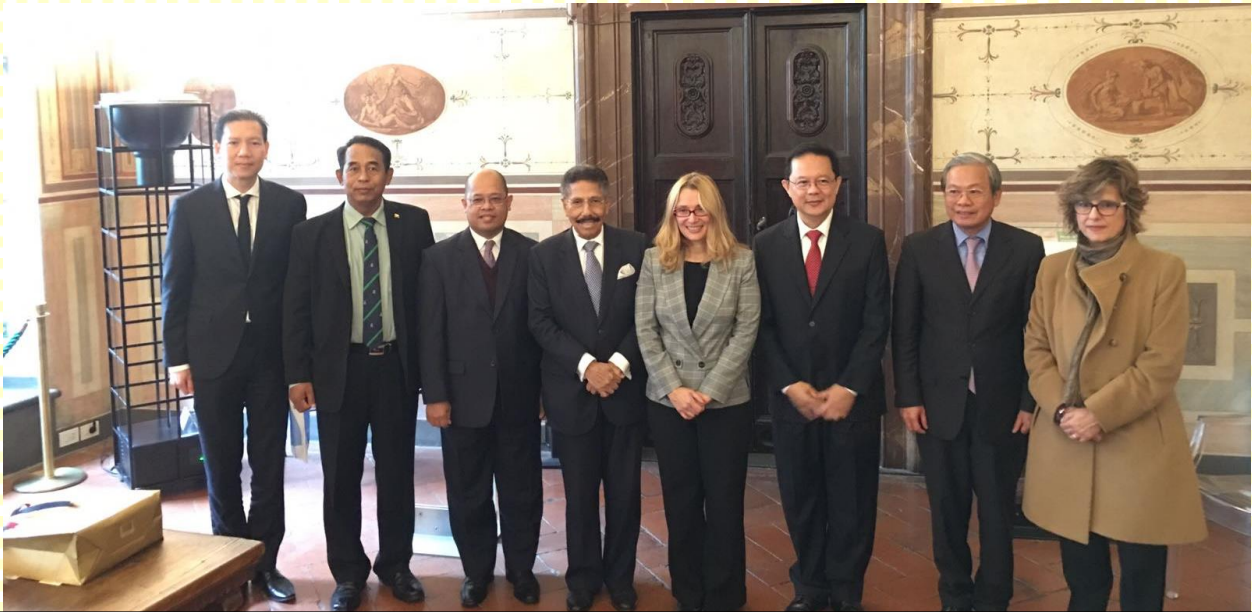
The Embassy of Malaysia in partnership with the Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) in Brussels organized a seminar entitled "Palm Oil and Its Importance: Food, Health and Sustainability" on 29 November 2016 at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Rome. The seminar was attended by around 80 participants from Italian companies, NGOs, institutions and media representatives. TYT Dato' Abdul Samad Othman delivered his welcoming remark at the beginning of the seminar. Four speakers delivered their presentation at the seminar namely, Mr. Laurent Cremona, Global Director Ferrero Group, Dr. Fabio Virgili, National Research Institute on Food & Nutrition (INRAN), Mr Guiseppe Aloca and Ms. Francesca Ronca, President and Secretary General of the Italian Union for Sustainable Palm Oil as well as Dr. Kalanithi Nesaretnam, Minister, Mission of Malaysia to the European Union/ Regional Manager MPOB (Europe). The seminar covered the following topics:-

- Palm Oil for the Italian Food Industry;
- Palm Oil: Health and Nutrition;
- Palm Oil : Food Safety and Sustainability; and
- Activities of the Italian Union for Palm oil.





ASEAN AMBASSADORS WORKING VISIT TO FIRENZE



On 8 November 2016, all ASEAN Ambassadors in Rome conducted a working visit to Firenze. The ambassadors met with Deputy Mayor of Firenze, Mrs. Nicoletta Mantovani, Ms- Laura Benedetto, Secretary General Chamber of Commerce Firenze and Professor Giorgia Giovannetti, Head of International Relations, Firenze University. The purpose of the working visit was to build good network with important personalities in Firenze and at the same time, promote economic advantage of the ASEAN market.



EMBASSY CLEAN UP DAY 2016

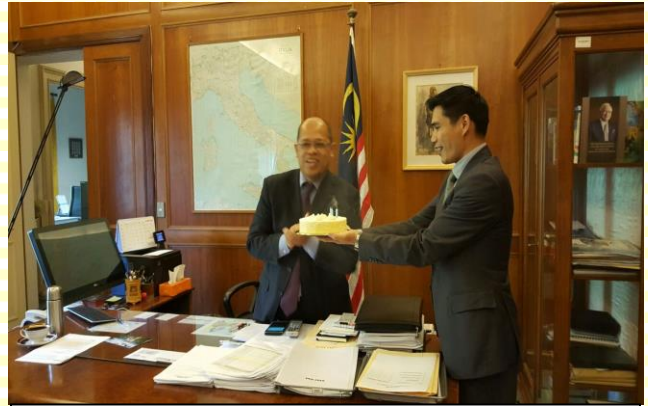


On 4 December 2016, the Embassy together with PERWAKILAN Rome organized a 'Clean Up Day' to enhance the landscape of the Embassy compound. Despite the cold weather, most of the Home Based staffs and their families joined. Some refreshments were served at the end of gotong royong.





TYT Dato' Abdul Samad Othman hosted lunch for Min Ugo Austuto, Deputy Director General of Asia and Oceania, MFA Italy. Mr. Austuto was accompanied by Mrs. Sara Rezogli and Mr. Niccolo Patrone. The luncheon was attended by Mrs Norli Muadza Noor and Ms. Zebine Nissa Sarfraz



The Home Based Staff at the Embassy surprised TYT Dato' Abdul Samad Othman on his birthday with a cake.

OUR



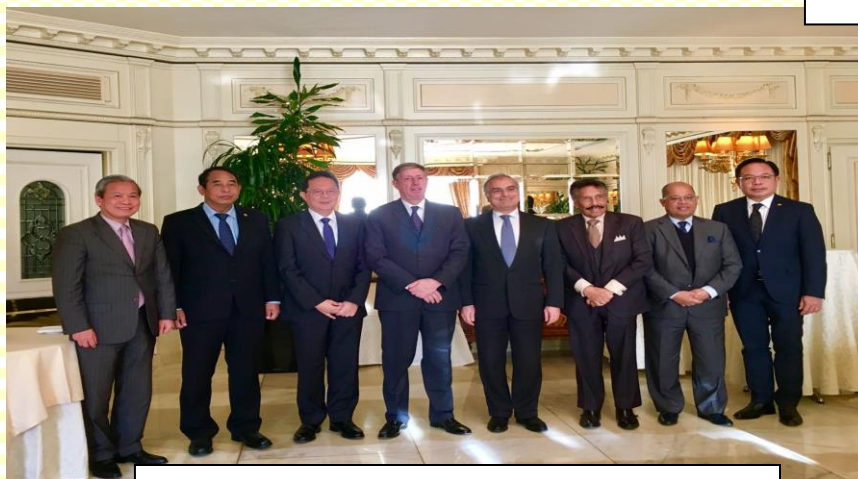
ACTIVITIES



Mrs. Norli Muadza Noor hosted lunch for Mrs. Sara Rezogli and Mr. Niccolo Patrone, from the Department of Asia Pacific, MFA Italy. The luncheon was attended by Ms. Zebine Nissa Sarfraz



TYT Dato' Abdul Samad Othman presented Mrs. Anna Ceppaluni, Honorary Consul of Malaysia to Napoli with her renewed Letter of Exequatur. They discussed on upcoming events next year. Ms. Zebine Nissa Sarfraz was also present.



TYT Dato' Abdul Samad Othman attended ACR Luncheon on 14 December 2016 hosted by the Philippines Ambassador to Rome. During the luncheon, Mr. Massimo Gaiani, Director Global Affairs, MFA spoke on matters concerning Asia. All ASEAN Ambassadors were present.

CHRISTMAS PARTY!

On 23 December 2016, the Home Based Staff organized a simple get-together Christmas Party for the locally recruited staffs. The staffs were given gifts and refreshments were served.



MW ROME WISHES YOU A VERY



HAPPY
NEW
YEAR
2017

Forging relations with all

NO SMALL FEAT: Wisma Putra has delivered as custodian of Malaysia's foreign policy

LIKE any other year, 2016 saw an influx of country leaders visiting Malaysia as well as a number of visits by our own government leaders.

Whether the visits are incoming or outgoing, both types are equally important when placed in the context of international relations.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's visit to China last month, for instance, is a good example of how a high-level visit serves to bolster ties between countries, and allows open discourse between the decision-makers.

Country leaders are not only the final arbiter for their country on issues, they are also enablers of industry — ensuring that matchmaking takes place in the business sphere, and generating interest in areas that may yield significant potential returns.

The same applies to the prime minister's visit to Germany — his first official visit to the country — in September. Both the prime minister and Chancellor Angela Merkel were eager

to step up cooperation in many areas of mutual interests.

The investment between Malaysia and Germany is a two-way street: Genting Bhd has its shipyard in the country while a German company, AWS Schafer, will be investing heavily in Pahang's Gebeng Industrial Park.

It is always the visits to, or from, the Big Powers that capture headlines and generate much interest within businesses and civil society.

When the prime minister went to the US for the Asean-US Special Leaders' Summit, or to Russia for the Asean-Russia Summit in May, or to the 19th Asean-China Summit in Laos in September, every single aspect of the visit received wide coverage both locally and abroad.

However, for the Foreign Ministry, no less important are those visits that do not receive wide coverage.

The visit of the president of Maldives earlier this year, for example, or of the president of Turkmenistan last month were both given the same level of attention by the ministry, the same level of preparation, and the same level of documentation.

When the first Yang di-Pertuan Agong addressed the nation, he spoke

of "forging relations with all friendly nations of the world", whether they were big or small, far or near.

The ministry has held true to this guiding principle.

Today, Malaysia is represented by 112 embassies and missions in 87 countries.

We have diplomatic relations with all countries of the world, except one.

Even though there is always a demand for the ministry to open up more missions in more countries, it is a request that the ministry mulls over very carefully because of the significance, costs and manpower involved in opening up a representative office.

Our furthest office, measured in terms of time difference, is Santiago, Chile, while our nearest is Singapore.

The locations of our offices and the work that they produce require the ministry to be on duty 24/7, something that only other ministries of foreign affairs can empathise with.

With only 742 officers and 449 staffers in the whole ministry, including at our missions abroad, this is no small feat.

This year also saw its fair share of international summits, meetings and conferences.

Only three weeks ago, the foreign minister was in Saudi Arabia for an emergency session of the OIC ministers, right after accompanying the prime minister for his visit to China.

The many organisations of which Malaysia is a member take up the

other quarter of the ministry's focus. It includes dealing with the wide range of issues under the aegis of the UN, the Non-Aligned Movement, the OIC and Asean.

Asean, perhaps, more than most of the other organisations, takes up a fair share of our energy and focus.

After successfully hosting the Asean Summit in Kuala Lumpur last year, the ministry continued its momentum as Asean focused on expanding relations with its dialogue partners.

Even before this year's summit in Laos, there were many other preparatory meetings and issues-based meetings organised by Asean in which the ministry was involved.

The UN General Assembly in September, always the highlight of the multilateral calendar, was an extremely busy time for the ministry.

This year, we had the added responsibility of chairing the Security Council in August, only to find ourselves already at the start of the General Assembly session.

Malaysia leaves the Security Council at the end of this year, justifiably proud of our accomplishments and contributions to the world body.

This year, we presided over two rounds of straw polls for the election of the UN secretary-general, and we carried out our responsibilities as the chair of the Council's Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict and the Sanctions Committee for Libya, to completion.

We also co-chaired two Arria Formula meetings of the Security Council on the protection of Palestinians and illegal Israel settlements in May and October this year.

For each and every visit, meeting, discussion and event, Wisma Putra officials have provided their all.

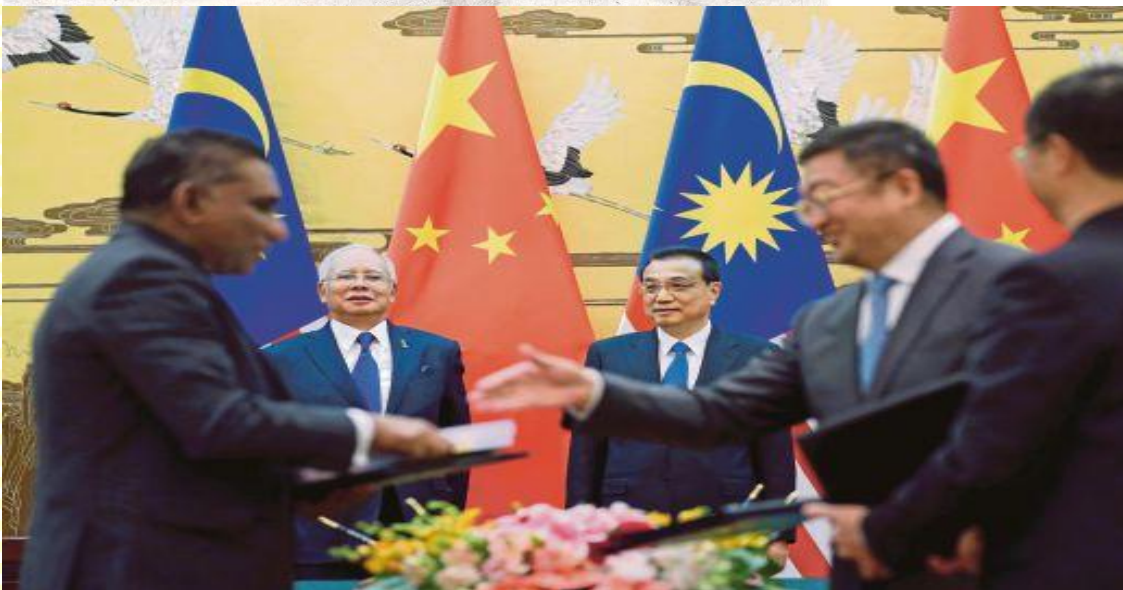
They know that even though foreign policy is conducted behind closed doors, its impact reverberates upon the wellbeing and standing of the country as a whole.

What they do matters, even if it cannot be measured in dollars and cents.

I have had the privilege of leading these past three years, and of being part of the Malaysian Foreign Service, or popularly known as Wisma Putra, for the past 37 years. It has been a joy to be able to serve the country in various capacities, and humbling to know that the Foreign Ministry has been able to deliver as the custodian of Malaysia's foreign policy.

Mine was a task that was made possible due to the leadership, guidance and trust of Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Anifah Aman, and of the cooperation, commitment and dedication of every single person at the ministry. It was this teamwork that allowed us to keep Malaysia's flag flying high.

The writer is a career diplomat whose postings include as ambassador to the US, to the Czech Republic and as Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the UN in Geneva. He finishes his term as secretary-general of the Foreign Ministry at the end of this year.



Tan Sri Othman Hashim is a career diplomat whose postings include as ambassador to the US, to the Czech Republic and as Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the UN in Geneva. He finishes his term as secretary-general of the Foreign Ministry at the end of this year.

<http://www.nst.com.my/news/2016/12/195077/forging-relations-all>

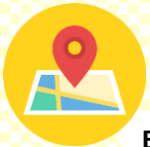


CONSULAR INFORMATION

Registration of Malaysians in Italy

Malaysian citizens in Italy are encouraged to register their contact details with the Malaysian Embassy in Rome. The contact details are important for the Embassy to keep in touch with Malaysian here in Italy for any announcements/ updates/invitations. Most importantly the contact details would assist the Embassy in contacting and/or locating Malaysian in case of any emergencies or eventualities. Malaysians travelling to Italy for business or pleasure are also encouraged to register.

Those who wish to register could come personally to the Embassy and fill up a registration form or you may send a letter or email providing relevant information such as latest contact numbers, resident address, e-mail address etc. Please contact the Embassy for more information.



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