



EMBASSY OF MALAYSIA IN VIENTIANE

# NEWSLETTER

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

# 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



## MALAYSIA-LAO PDR

### DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

1 JULY 1966 - 1 JULY 2016

## Ambassador's Foreword

### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Malaysia-Lao PDR Diplomatic Relations

Greetings and Sabaidee from Vientiane, the beautiful capital city of the Lao PDR. 2016 is a special year for Malaysia and the Lao PDR, as we are celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries on 1 July 2016.

Malaysia and the Lao PDR established diplomatic relations on 1 July 1966. The Embassy of Malaysia in Vientiane was established in 1972 and the Embassy of the Lao PDR in Kuala Lumpur was established in 1991.

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Members of the Embassy of Malaysia in Vientiane

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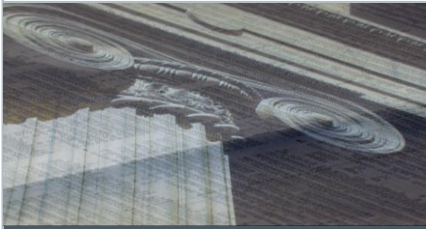
A glance of what we do at the Embassy of Malaysia in Vientiane

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#### Commemorative Activities...

Celebrating the Golden Jubilee

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## Home-Based Officials

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## Members of the Embassy of Malaysia in Vientiane



The workforce of the Embassy of Malaysia in Vientiane was further strengthened in 2016 with the addition of 3 officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia namely Counsellor K. Saravana Kumar, Counsellor Shahril Nizam Abdul Malek and Second Secretary Johan Arief Jaafar. The Ministry of Defence, Malaysia had also sent 3 officials

to the Embassy of Malaysia in Vientiane namely Defence Attaché Colonel Mahmud, and his 2 supporting Staff namely Staff Sargent Salnizam and Corporal Faiz, following the establishment of the Office of the Defence Attaché in Vientiane which was officially opened on 12 December 2015.

## Farewell and Welcome



Our nomadic way of life dictates that the people around us will always come and go. But the truth is the people

never really leave, their distance just change.

So we bid a fond farewell to Ms. Fadhlin Jaffar who completed her assignment in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 25 June 2015 and we welcomed Ms. Siti Nooraida Mohamad who started her assignment in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 21 June 2016.



**Ambassador's Foreword**

Greetings and Sabaidee from Vientiane, the beautiful capital city of the Lao PDR. 2016 is a special year for Malaysia and the Lao PDR, as we are celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries on 1 July 2016.

1 July 1966 marked the day of establishment of diplomatic relations between Malaysia and the Lao PDR. The Embassy of Malaysia in Vientiane was established in 1972 and the Embassy of the Lao People's Democratic Republic in Kuala Lumpur was established in 1991.

In the span of 50 years, relations between Malaysia and the Lao People's Democratic Republic continued to enjoy steady

progress in the substantive growth in economic cooperation and people-to-people ties benefitting from the concerted efforts at strengthening bilateral relations and exchange of high level visits from both sides.

The Government of Malaysia through its Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) and Malaysian Defence Cooperation Programme (MDCP) have successfully provided human resource capacity building to more than 2000 officials of the Government of the Lao PDR in various fields, including expertise sharing on Malaysia's experience during its recent ASEAN Chairmanship.

Relations between the two countries received a boost with the introduction of direct flights between Kuala Lumpur and Vientiane by AirAsia in 2007, which had increased tourism exchanges and improved trade relations. AirAsia will soon commence its direct flight from Kuala Lumpur to Luang Prabang, thus adding increased connectivity between Malaysia and the Lao PDR.

Most notable development in relations between the two countries in 2016 is the elevation of defence cooperation with the establishment of the Office of the Defence Attaché in respective capitals. Indeed, we have traverse so far together for the past 50 years, driven by our friendship and goodwill, based on mutual respect, trust and understanding.

I wish to take this opportunity to say Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Malaysia-Lao PDR Diplomatic Relations.

*Terima Kasih, Thank You and Korp Chai Lai Lai*

**Dato' Than Tai Hing**  
Ambassador of Malaysia to the Lao PDR/Dean of Diplomatic Corps

## Moments ...



**The Official Visit by The Honourable Dato' Sri Anifah Aman, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia to Vientiane, Lao PDR, 28 February 2016.**

The Official Visit was held back to back after the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 26 and 27 February 2016.

**Picture:**

Bilateral Meeting between The Honourable Dato' Sri Anifah Aman, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia and H.E. Dr. Thongloun Sisoulith, the then Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR. The latter is now the Prime Minister of the Lao PDR.



**The Working Visit by The Honourable Dato' Sri Ahmad Husni Hanadzlah, Minister of Finance II to attend the 20<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Finance Ministers' Meeting, 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Central Bank Governors' Meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' Joint Meeting and Related Meetings in Vientiane, Lao PDR, 1 to 4 April 2016.**

**Picture:**

H.E. Dato' Than Tai Hing, Ambassador of Malaysia to the Lao PDR receiving the Honourable Dato' Sri Ahmad Husni Hanadzlah, Minister of Finance II at the VIP Hall at Wattay International Airport.



**Courtesy Call by H.E. Dato' Than Tai Hing on H.E. Mr. Khamkhan Chanthavysouk, Governor of Luang Prabang Province of the Lao PDR, Luang Prabang Province, 5 May 2016.**

**Picture:**

H.E. Dato' Than Tai Hing paid a Courtesy Call on H.E. Mr. Khamkhan Chanthavysouk, Governor of Luang Prabang Province of the Lao PDR to brief the latter on the latest development of AirAsia Berhad's direct flight from Kuala Lumpur to Luang Prabang Province.

## Moments ...



**The Working Visit by The Honourable Dato' Sri Richard Riot Jaem, Minister of Human Resources Malaysia to attend the 24<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Labour Ministers' Meeting (ALMM) and Related Meetings in Vientiane, Lao PDR, 10 to 16 May 2016.**

**Picture:**

Dinner hosted by The Honourable Dato' Sri Richard Riot Jaem, Minister of Human Resources Malaysia with the Malaysian Community in the Lao PDR at Don Chan Palace Hotel on 15 May 2016.



**The Working Visit by The Honourable Dato' Sri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, Minister of Defence, Malaysia to attend the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting in Vientiane, Lao PDR, 24-27 May 2016.**

**Picture:**

The Honourable Dato' Sri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, Minister of Defence, Malaysia was greeted by the Defence Attaché of Malaysia in the Lao PDR, Colonel Mohd Mahmud Ahmad upon arrival in Vientiane, Lao PDR



**The 49<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting, Post Ministerial Conferences, 6<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit Ministerial Meeting and the 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Regional Forum in Vientiane, Lao PDR, 24-26 July 2016.**

**Picture:**

H.E. Tan Sri Othman Hashim, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia and Dato' Than Tai Hing strike a pose with some of the Malaysian delegation after the successful completion of the above-said Meetings.

## Moments ...



Dato' Than Tai Hing posed with the ASEAN Ambassadors and the Regional Head Indo-China Operations of Public Bank Berhad and Country Head Public Bank Vientiane Capital Branch, Lao PDR during the launching of Visa Credit/Debit Card of Public Bank Berhad



Dinner hosted by Dato' Than Tai Hing in honour of the Malaysian Delegation attending the 20<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Finance Ministers' Meeting and Related Meetings



The Grand Opening Ceremony of Savan Seno Logistics Park at Savannakhet Province was officially launched by H.E. Dr. Souphanh Keomixay, former Governor of Savannakhet Province and H.E. Dr. Bounchanh Sinthavong, Minister of Public Works and Transport of the Lao PDR



The Lao New Year or famously known as Pimai Lao for the year 2016 was hosted by the Embassy of Malaysia in Vientiane to celebrate the festival with LRS of the Embassy



Dato' Than Tai Hing received a Courtesy Call by Tan Sri Dr. Michael Yeoh, CEO of Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute (ASLI) and delegation during the latter's working visit to Vientiane, Lao PDR from 7-9 April 2016

## Moments ...

*Eidul Fitri Celebration 2016 @ Rumah Malaysia  
15 July 2016*



# 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



## MALAYSIA-LAO PDR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

1 JULY 1966 - 1 JULY 2016

### COMMEMORATIVE ACTIVITIES

#### LAOS INTERNATIONAL FAMILY ENDEAVOUR (LIFE) 2016 Vientiane Capital, 14-19 JULY 2016



Vientiane Times

#### Malaysia, Laos mark 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations

**Times Reporters**

A group of 40 students and 10 lecturers from the Malaysia's Cyberjaya University College of Medical Sciences (CUCMS) have undertaken a 6-day capacity-building project in Vientiane.

The project, called *Twenties for Smileys: Laos International Family Endeavour (LIFE)*, took place in Phonesavattai village in Sikhottabong district from July 14-19 in collaboration with the Embassy of Malaysia.

The project provided valuable experience and exposure for the CUCMS students in organising an international humanitarian mission. It was a managerial training and experience for the students, said a statement issued by the embassy yesterday.

The project was part of activities to celebrate the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Malaysia and Laos, which were

formalised on July 1, 1966.

The first phase of the project was the outreach programme, which was conducted by the Embassy of Malaysia on July 14 to appraise students of the key milestones in Malaysia-Laos bilateral relations. It also taught them about Asean, particularly the significance of the establishment of the Asean Community on December 31, 2015, under the chairmanship of Malaysia.

The one-day seminar was attended by nearly 100 students from CUCMS, the National University of Laos and the University of Health Sciences of Laos and was officiated by Malaysian Ambassador to Laos Mr Dato' Than Tai Hing.

In his remarks, Mr Dato' Than Tai Hing, among others, underscored the importance of the substantive outcome of the bilateral exchanges, especially on the economic front, that must be driven by people-to-people connectivity.

He also encouraged the students to read more about

Asean and be more involved in the development and progress of the Asean Community.

The second phase of the project focussed on free and voluntary medical check-up screenings, talks on health related topics, and practical hygiene awareness sessions for the residents of Phonesavattai village.

The event was led by Minister of Health Dr Phouthone Muangpak and Mr Dato' Than Tai Hing. They witnessed the handing over of 100 giveaway packages comprising food items and hygiene kits to village authorities for distribution to families.

The embassy thanked the Lao government for its strong support in making the event a success.

The embassy will hold similar initiatives throughout the 50th anniversary commemorative year of bilateral relations in collaboration with universities and colleges in Laos.

As part of the commemorative efforts to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Diplomatic Relations between Malaysia and the Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR), which was established on 1 July 1966, a team of 40 students and 10 lecturers from the Cyberjaya University College of Medical Sciences (CUCMS) Malaysia, in collaboration with the Embassy of Malaysia in Vientiane had embarked on a 6-day capacity-building project called *Twenties for Smileys: Laos International Family Endeavour (LIFE) 2016* at Ban Phonesavathai, Vientiane Capital from 14-19 July 2016.

LIFE 2016 was focussing on the free and voluntary medical check-up screening, talks on health related topics as well as practical hygiene awareness sessions for the villagers of Ban Phonesavathai, Vientiane Capital.

The event was officiated by His Excellency Dr. Phouthone Muongpak, Vice Minister of Health of the Lao PDR and Dato' Than Tai Hing, Ambassador of Malaysia to the Lao PDR on 16 July 2016. The Vice Minister of Health and the Ambassador subsequently witnessed the handing over of 100 giveaway packages comprising of food items and hygiene kit to the Head of Village of Ban Phonesavathai, to be distributed to the respective families.

The LIFE 2016 had provided valuable experience and exposure to the CUCMS students in organising an international humanitarian mission. It was a managerial training and experience for the students of CUCMS as the Mission was successfully organized by the students themselves.



Students from CUCMS, the National University of Laos and the University of Health Sciences pose with Mr Dato' Than Tai Hing, Dr Phouthone Muangpak and other guests during project activities.



# 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



## MALAYSIA-LAO PDR

### DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

1 JULY 1966 - 1 JULY 2016

## COMMEMORATIVE ACTIVITIES

### CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT 2016

Long-Vien Golf Club, 17 July 2016



Vientiane Times

### Charity golf tournament marks 50 years of Laos-Malaysia diplomatic ties

**Sangkomsay Bubphanouvong**

More than 60 golfers on Saturday gathered to raise money for various Vientiane charities during a golf tournament held at the Long Vien Golf Club in Vientiane.

The tournament was also held to commemorate the 50th anniversary of diplomatic ties between Laos and Malaysia and was hosted by the Malaysian Embassy to Laos in collaboration with the Malaysian Business

Chamber of Laos.

The charity event attracted the participation of cabinet ministers, senior government officials, members of the diplomatic corps, and others representing a variety of businesses around the country.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Saleumxay Kommasith was the guest of honour and also led the ceremonial tee-off.

Thanks to generous donations and strong support from many individuals and corporate organisations attending

the event, the tournament raised a significant amount of money.

Speaking at the event, Ambassador of Malaysia to Laos Dato' Than Tai Hing reiterated Malaysia's continued commitment to working closely with the government of Laos for the mutual benefit of both countries.

The Embassy of Malaysia also wanted to express its appreciation for the generous contributions and support given by both the players and event sponsors.



Ministers and senior officials attend the opening ceremony of a charity golf tournament at the Long Vien Golf Club in Vientiane on Saturday.

The celebration to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Diplomatic Relations between Malaysia and the Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) continues on Sunday, 17 July 2016 with the hosting of the Charity Golf Tournament at Long Vien Golf Club by the Embassy of Malaysia in Vientiane, Lao PDR in collaboration with the Malaysian Business Chamber of the Lao PDR.

The Charity Event had attracted the participation of more than 60 players comprising Cabinet Ministers, senior officials of Government of the Lao PDR, members of the Diplomatic Corps and distinguished personalities representing the business and corporate organisations in the Lao PDR. His Excellency Mr. Saleumxay Kommasith, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR had graced the event as the Guest of Honour who led the Ceremonial Tee-Off.

With the generous donations and strong support from various individuals and corporate organisations, this charity event had raised a significant amount of fund, which will be channelled to a few of charity organisations in Vientiane Capital.

Dato' Than Tai Hing in his Welcoming Remarks, reiterated Malaysia's continued commitment and support to working closely with the Government of the Lao PDR for the mutual benefits of the two countries.

# 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



## MALAYSIA-LAO PDR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

1 JULY 1966 - 1 JULY 2016

### COMMEMORATIVE ACTIVITIES

#### MPOB TECHNICAL SEMINAR (MTecS) LAOS 2016 Vientiane, Lao PDR, 28 July 2016



In commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Diplomatic Relations between Malaysia and the Lao People’s Democratic Republic (PDR), which was established on 1 July 1966, the Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB), an agency under the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities, Malaysia in collaboration with the Embassy of Malaysia in Vientiane, Lao PDR had organized the inaugural MPOB Technical Seminar (MTecS) at the Landmark Mekong Hotel, Vientiane, Lao PDR on 28 July 2016.

The one-day seminar received the participation of more than 100 officials representing various Ministries and Government Agencies of the Lao PDR, members of the Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LNCCI) as well as participants from the business community and private sector of the Lao PDR. The seminar was officiated by His Excellency Mr. Somchith Inthamith, Vice Minister of Industry and Commerce of the Lao PDR in the presence of Dato’ Than Tai Hing, Ambassador of Malaysia to the Lao PDR.



#### Malaysia seeks to grow palm oil market in Laos

**Times Reporters**

The Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) is looking to expand its business in Laos where economic growth is around 7 percent per year, according to a senior official at a seminar this week.

“The palm oil industry has enormous potential that can bring greater growth and prosperity to the Lao people,” Ambassador of Malaysia to Laos, Mr Dato’ Than Tai Hing, said at the inaugural MPOB technical seminar in Vientiane on Thursday.

The seminar aimed to provide participants with valuable experience, knowledge and technical know-how on the potential of palm oil especially in the food industry, and increase awareness of its commercial benefits.

The seminar also came at a special juncture as Malaysia and the Lao PDR recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Laos and Malaysia established diplomatic ties on July 1, 1966, and since then relations and cooperation between the two ASEAN member countries have developed and been enhanced, Mr Dato noted.

He said the Lao private sector should be further encouraged to look into expanding its business in the palm oil industry.

Deputy Minister of Industry and Commerce, Mr Somchith Inthamith, said the government was pleased with the initiative by the MPOB to venture into Laos as it would pave the way for mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries’ private sectors.

He outlined some of the measures currently being undertaken by the Lao government to invite foreign investors to explore business opportunities in the country.

He encouraged Lao businesses to actively explore the possibility of future collaboration with the MPOB and Malaysian business community to expand bilateral trade between the two countries.

Malaysia is the ninth largest foreign investor in Laos with much potential left untapped and investments in 101 projects worth more than US\$352.2 million, according to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

In his remarks, Ambassador Dato’ Than said that this inaugural seminar came at a special juncture as Malaysia and the Lao PDR had recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries. He also encouraged the business and private sectors of the Lao PDR to seriously look into the potential of expanding its businesses vis-à-vis the palm oil industry given its enormous potential that can bring greater growth and prosperity to the people of the Lao PDR.

The MTecS Laos 2016 had featured prominent speakers and experts from MPOB to cover various aspects of palm oil industry including economics, standard and regulation, quality, nutrition, dietary and food applications. It has provided the participants with valuable experience, knowledge and technical know-how on the vast potentials of palm oil usage especially to the food industry. The seminar had successfully increased the awareness of palm oil usefulness and commercial benefits in the Lao PDR.



## OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

The Embassy of Malaysia in Vientiane has been actively finding opportunities to conduct outreach programmes at the Embassy for students' associations, youth groups and non-government organizations who came to Vientiane for various Missions focusing on capacity building activities especially in the rural areas of the Lao PDR.

Apart from participants from Malaysia, invitations would also be extended to universities and colleges in the Lao PDR for their students to also participate in the briefings organised. The participations from the Lao students thus far has been very encouraging.



His Excellency Dato' Than Tai Hing, Ambassador of Malaysia to the Lao PDR together with the Home-Based Officials of the Embassy will use such an opportunity to provide briefing on topics such as Malaysia's Foreign Policy, Malaysia-Lao PDR Bilateral Relations, The Establishment of ASEAN Community and ASEAN Vision 2025 as well as the roles and function of the Embassy. Such a briefing will normally be followed up with a dialogue session, providing the opportunity for the participants to have an interactive session with members of the Embassy of Malaysia in Vientiane.

The Embassy hopes that these engagements will be the platform for the participants to learn and know more about Malaysia's Foreign Policy, key milestones of Malaysia-Lao PDR bilateral relations as well as the significance of the establishment of ASEAN Community on 31 December 2015 under the Chairmanship of Malaysia.

The Embassy will continue to embark on such an initiative throughout the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorative year of bilateral relations in collaboration with the universities and colleges in the Lao PDR.



Outreach Programme 1/2016 with Yayasan Sukarelawan Siswa on 26 March 2016



Outreach Programme 1/2016 with the Malaysian Smile Action Team, a registered NGO aiming to organise dental outreach programmes in the Lao PDR, on 26 March 2016



Outreach Programme 2/2016 with the International Youth Centre, Malaysia on 7 May 2016



Outreach Programme 3/2016 with the students from the Cyberjaya University College of Medical Sciences (CUCMS) Malaysia on 14 July 2016



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