



EMBASSY OF MALAYSIA IN VIENTIANE

NEWSLETTER

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC



Mission Accomplished!

H.E. Dato' Than Tai Hing retires on a high note with the conferment of the Cross of Friendship by the Government of the Lao PDR

After an illustrious diplomatic career in the span of 35 years, His Excellency Dato' Than Tai Hing, Ambassador of Malaysia to the Lao PDR retired from Malaysian Civil Service on 31 December 2016. Prior to his departure from Vientiane, he was awarded the Cross of Friendship by the Government of the Lao PDR on 28 December 2016 by His Excellency Saleumxay Kommasith, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR in a

solemn ceremony at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR. The conferment was in recognition of his commitment and contribution to strengthen bilateral relation between Malaysia and the Lao PDR throughout his ambassadorship in the Lao PDR which was just 3 months short of 6 years.

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Malaysia-Lao PDR Bilateral Relations

1. On 1st July 2016, Malaysia and the Lao PDR had celebrated the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries.
2. 1 July 1966 marked the day of establishment of diplomatic relations between Malaysia and the Lao PDR which was initially supervised by the Embassy of Malaysia in Bangkok. In 1972, the Embassy of Malaysia in Vientiane was established in Vientiane. The Government of the Lao PDR then reciprocated and established the Embassy of the Lao PDR in Kuala Lumpur in 1991.
3. In the span of 50 years, relations between Malaysia and the Lao PDR continued to enjoy steady progress in the substantive growth of 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.
4. The partnership between Malaysia and the Lao PDR continues to enjoy steady progress with total trade between the two countries amounting to USD26.1 million in 2015.
5. Malaysia's ranking in terms of foreign direct investment in the Lao PDR has improved from no.10 in 2010 to no.8 in 2016.
6. There are now 4 Malaysian banks operating in the Lao PDR namely Public Bank, Maybank, RHB Bank and CIMB Bank alongside a score of prominent Malaysian companies with a strong presence in the Lao PDR.
7. Defence Cooperation between Malaysia and the Lao PDR was further strengthened with the opening of the Office of the Defence Attaché (DA) of Malaysia on 12 December 2015. The Office of the Defence Attaché of the Lao PDR in Malaysia was subsequently established in mid-2016.
8. 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 ASEAN Chairmanship in 2015.
9. 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 had recently introduced direct flight between Kuala Lumpur and Luang Prabang from 21 November 2016 thus adding increased greater connectivity between Malaysia and the Lao PDR.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Development Works at the Embassy

Nongbone Road, Ban Phonxay,
No. 312, P.O Box 789,
Vientiane, Lao PDR

The Embassy of Malaysia in Vientiane is currently operating from a temporary location to make way for the development works of the Chancery Buildings.

The said project will be fully completed in January 2017.



The Embassy is currently operating at the following address:

ASEM Villa Unit No. 5
That Khao Village,
Sisattanak District
Vientiane, Lao PDR





Parting words from *H.E. Dato' Than Tai Hing*

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Salam Sejahtera. It is time for me to draw down the curtain after 35 years of service.

Too much has happened throughout this wonderful journey of mine to be put into words.

There were moments of joy, triumph and overwhelming sense of accomplishment. There were also moments of sadness and dejection for falling short of expectations.

Despite all that has happened, I know that I have given all that I can and to the best of my ability. I hope I can take a bow for what little have I done.

I feel that the years have gone by just like a breeze passing through. The saying is true that time flies when you are having fun.

Indeed it has been a colourful journey for me surrounded by dear friends, colleagues and acquaintances. From Belgrade to Seoul, Almaty and Vientiane, the people whom Binder and I met were aplenty, everyone we met left footprints in our hearts. We cherished all the experiences, the laughter and most of all the friendship.

For all our acquaintances and friends, I say, from the bottom of my heart, a very big thank you.

To the up and coming, greater challenges awaits you. Anticipate and get ready for the next Black Swan. Perseverance is key for you to carry the torch of excellence to greater heights. Teamwork will get you there. It will not always be smooth sailing and beds of roses, nonetheless, it was certainly worth it.

As every show must come to an end, I take my leave here, today. Thank you once again for the guidance, support and camaraderie.

But this is not to say good bye, it is just *au revoir*, see you in Kuala Lumpur.

Sebelum berundur, izinkan saya memohon ampun dan maaf jika ada jarum yang patah:

*Bulan mengambang bintang berkerlipan,
Pungguk menangis rindukan bulan,
Andai menyinggung tersilap perlakuan,
Ku pohon maaf dan ampun darimu
kalian.*

*Bukan mudah menampi selasih,
Selasih sudah bercampur arang,
Bukan mudah bercerai kasih,
Kasih sudah bercampur sayang.*

Wishing you all the very best, a happy and prosperous new year, continued good health, happiness and success.

Yours sincerely,

H.E. Dato' Than Tai Hing
Signing off from Vientiane

31st December 2016

Moments ...



The Working Visit by the Honourable Dato' Sri Mustapa bin Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry to attend the 48th ASEAN Economic Ministers' (AEM) Meeting in Vientiane, Lao PDR from 2-5 August 2016.

Picture:

H.E. Dato' Than Tai Hing, Ambassador of Malaysia to the Lao PDR accompanying the Honourable Dato' Sri Mustapa bin Mohamed, to visit the Dongphosy Specific Economic Zone (DSEZ) that is owned by a Malaysian company.

The Working Visit by the Honourable Dato' Sri Mohd Najib bin Tun Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia to Vientiane, Lao PDR to attend the 28 and 29th ASEAN Summits and Related Summits under Chairmanship of the Lao PDR from 3-9 September 2016.

Picture:

The press conference by the Honourable Dato' Sri Mohd Najib bin Tun Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia with the Malaysian journalists.



The 59th National Day Reception and Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of Malaysia-Lao PDR Diplomatic Relations at Settha Palace Hotel, Vientiane, Lao PDR on 5 October 2016.

Picture:

H.E. Dato' Than Tai Hing, Ambassador of Malaysia to the Lao PDR and H.E. Saleumxay Kommasith, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR were invited to deliver remarks and to complete the cake-cutting ceremony.



Moments ...



Bowling Competition in celebrating the National Sports Day 2016 at Central Plaza, Udon Thani, Thailand on 8 October 2016.

Picture:
HBS and LRS and their family members posed for a group photo prior to the commencement of the bowling competition.

The 2nd Roundtable Discussion of Langkawi Declaration on the Global Movement of Moderates titled “The experience of Moderation in ASEAN and moderation as an ASEAN value towards peace, security and development” was held at Landmark Riverside Mekong Hotel in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 26 October 2016.

The event was organised by the Global Movement of Moderates Foundation (GMMF) in collaboration with the Institute of Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR and the Embassy of Malaysia in Vientiane.



The Working Visit by the Honourable Dato' Sri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, Minister of Defence, Malaysia to attend the ASEAN Defence Ministers' (ADMM) Retreat in Vientiane, Lao PDR, 15-17 November 2016.

Picture:
The Honourable Dato' Sri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, Minister of Defence, Malaysia with H.E. Dato' Than Tai Hing, Colonel Mohd Mahmud Ahmad, Defence Attaché and the HBS of the Embassy.





The Inaugural AirAsia Direct Flight between Kuala Lumpur – Luang Prabang 21 November 2016

AirAsia enhances ASEAN connectivity with direct flights between Kuala Lumpur and Luang Prabang. It is the first to operate this exclusive route, marking AirAsia Group's 70th intra-ASEAN route connecting all ten ASEAN countries, as well as the airline's fourth route into Laos after Kuala Lumpur – Vientiane, Bangkok – Vientiane and Bangkok - Luang Prabang.

The inaugural flight, AK562 landed with an encouraging flight load of 80%, and on board the flight were Ms. Aireen Omar, CEO of AirAsia Berhad, Dato' Hj. Zainuddin Abdul Wahab, Director of Production Division, Tourism Malaysia and Spencer Lee, Head of Commercial for AirAsia Berhad along with Malaysian media. All guests on board along with the VIPs in the flight were welcomed with a water cannon salute, along with a traditional Lao performance at the airport upon landing.

H.E. Dato' Than Tai Hing, Ambassador of Malaysia to the Lao PDR, H.E. Dr. Bouakhong Namavong, Vice Governor of Luang Prabang, on behalf of the Governor of Luang Prabang, H.E. Mrs. Khamphao Ernthavanh, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR, H.E. Mr. Ounethouang Kaophanh, Vice Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism of the Lao PDR and H.E. Mr. Inthanousorn Sisanonh, Deputy Director General of Department of Civil Aviation of the Lao PDR were present to receive guests from this significant maiden AirAsia flight.

It was a historic moment not just for AirAsia Berhad but also in the context of strengthening of Malaysia-Lao PDR bilateral relations which dovetail nicely with the 50th Anniversary of Malaysia-Lao PDR Diplomatic Relations that was celebrated on 1 July 2016.





The Women's International Group (WIG) Bazaar 19 November 2016



PERWAKILAN Vientiane participated in the 2016 Women's International Group (WIG) Bazaar that was held at the National University of Laos on 19 November 2016 by taking-up a spot to promote Malaysia as well as to raise fund for Education and Medical Welfare Projects which benefit Lao Communities through WIG. What better way to do this other than by introducing the variety of Malaysian cuisines prepared by PERWAKILAN Vientiane.





**Outreach Activity:
University Seminar on The Global Movement Of
Moderates
27 October 2016**

The University Seminar on the Global Movement of Moderates was held at the Faculty of Law and Political Science, National University of Laos (NUOL) on 27 October 2016. The Seminar was organised by the Global Movement of Moderates Foundation (GMMF) in collaboration with the Embassy of Malaysia in Vientiane, Lao PDR 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.



The Seminar was divided into two lectures, namely on "The 50th Anniversary of Malaysia – Lao PDR Bilateral Relations" and on "Countering Extremism and the Concept of Moderation". The Seminar was participated by more than 150 students from various faculties and disciplines of the NUOL.

The first lecture was delivered by Mr. Shahril Nizam Abdul Malek, Counsellor, Embassy of Malaysia in Vientiane, Lao PDR. His lecture was focused on the strengthening of Malaysia-Lao PDR bilateral relations since 1966 against the backdrop of the success of regional cooperation since the establishment of ASEAN in 1967. He alluded that the successful cooperation among the 5 founding members of ASEAN had generated confidence that was spreading across the region and bilateral relations among the countries in the Southeast Asia region had benefited from the peaceful situation in the region. Among others, he added that the situation was ripe for Malaysia and the Lao PDR to pursue a more substantive bilateral engagement. He then highlighted the key milestones of the success of Malaysia-Lao PDR bilateral relations.



The second lecture was delivered by Dato’ Dr. Nasharudin Mat Isa, Executive Chairman and CEO of GMMF who focused on the concept of moderation and the works of the GMMF. In his lecture, Dato’ Dr. Nasharudin highlighted that the idea of the Global Movement of Moderates that was mooted by Dato’ Seri Mohd Najib Tun Haji Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia at the 65th United Nations General Assembly on 27 September 2010 had received international recognition and acceptance. He introduced the GMMF as a platform for the global moderates to present a united front in exploring, formulating and implementing effective and compelling ways to counter the spread of extremist ideology. He called for the students to participate in the works of the GMMF and proposed for the establishment of GMMF Club in the NUOL. He shared his plan to introduce an academic module regarding the concept of moderation that can be taught in Universities and Higher Learning Institutions in Malaysia and subsequently, across the region soon.





Happy New Year 2017
From us at the
Embassy of Malaysia in Vientiane, Lao PDR

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