MALAYSIA IN HO CHI MINH CITY (Vol.3 January – June 2017)

The official newsletter of the Consulate General of Malaysia, Ho Chi Minh City

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FOREWORD BY THE CONSUL GENERAL OF MALAYSIA, HO CHI MINH CITY

2017 is a significant year for all citizens of ASEAN member states. 50 years ago – on 8th August 1967 – ASEAN was formed when five leaders – the Foreign Ministers of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand – signed a document which declared the creation of ASEAN.

Brunei Darussalam joined ASEAN on 7th January 1984, followed by Viet Nam on 28th July 1995, Lao PDR and Myanmar on 23rd July 1997, and Cambodia on 30th April 1999.
On 8th August 2017, ASEAN will celebrate its 50th year of existence.

ASEAN has come a long way from its humble beginning with five members in 1967. On 31st December 2015, during Malaysia's chairmanship, the ASEAN Community was established.

I hope you will join me in being proud of ASEAN, its history and its achievements. Let us celebrate ASEAN's 50th anniversary together!

- **SOFIAN AKMAL ABD. KARIM**

NEW YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG MALAYSIA

SULTAN MUHAMMAD V

The new Yang di-Pertuan Agong (King) of Malaysia, Sultan Muhammad V, took his oath of office on 13 December 2016 in a simple yet highly symbolic ceremony at the Istana Negara (National Palace).

Also in attendance were the Conference of Rulers or their representatives, i.e. the Sultans and the Yang di-Pertua Negeri (rulers) of the other states in Malaysia. The ceremony itself was chaired by the Sultan of Selangor, Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah.

Malaysia practices a constitutional monarchy system, with the post of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong rotated among the nine Sultans in Malaysia. The Conference of Rulers decide which of the nine will be the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, taking into account a number of factors including the principle of geographical rotation.

SULTAN NAZRIN MUIZZUDDIN SHAH

Once appointed, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong presides over all federal ceremonies involving the monarchy, and he resides at the National Palace in Kuala Lumpur. In his own home state, a regent will be appointed to oversee state ceremonial matters.

Sultan Muhammad V became the 15th Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia, corresponding with 60 years of Malaysia's independence. The last time a Sultan of Kelantan was the Yang di-Pertuan Agong was in 1975 (Sultan Muhammad V's grandfather).

The Sultan of Perak, Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah, was officially appointed as the Deputy Yang di-Pertuan Agong at the same ceremony.

About Sultan Muhammad V:

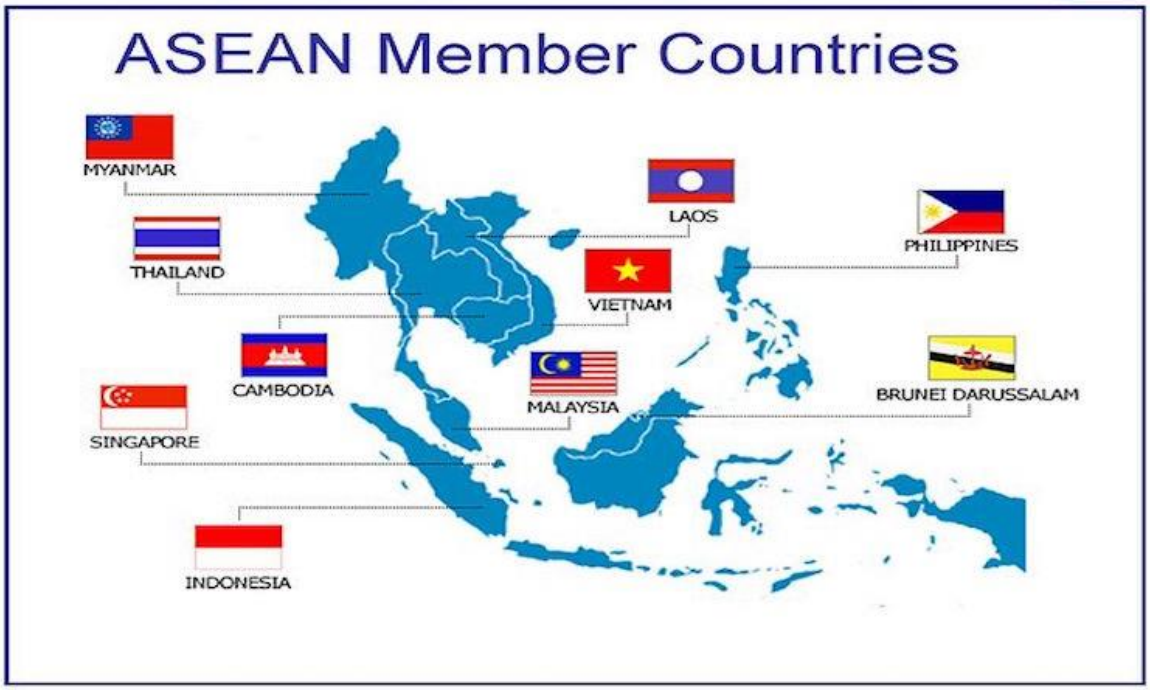
Date of birth	6 October 1969
Education	Sultan Ismail School (76-81) Alice Smith School (83) Oakham School UK (89) Oxford University (89-91) Courses at Huron University College, Deutsche Stiftung Internationale Entwicklung, European Business School London.
Hobbies	Horse-riding, reading, golfing, shooting, badminton, bowling, football, 4WD expeditions

ABOUT ASEAN

ESTABLISHMENT

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN, was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand, with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) by the Founding Fathers of ASEAN, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

Brunei Darussalam then joined on 7 January 1984, Viet Nam on 28 July 1995, Lao PDR and Myanmar on 23 July 1997, and Cambodia on 30 April 1999, making up what is today the ten Member States of ASEAN.



AIMS AND PURPOSES

As set out in the ASEAN Declaration, the aims and purposes of ASEAN are:

1. To accelerate the economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region through joint endeavours in the spirit of equality and partnership in order to strengthen the foundation for a prosperous and peaceful community of Southeast Asian Nations;
2. To promote regional peace and stability through abiding respect for justice and the rule of law in the relationship among countries of the region and adherence to the principles of the United Nations Charter;

3. To promote active collaboration and mutual assistance on matters of common interest in the economic, social, cultural, technical, scientific and administrative fields;
4. To provide assistance to each other in the form of training and research facilities in the educational, professional, technical and administrative spheres;
5. To collaborate more effectively for the greater utilisation of their agriculture and industries, the expansion of their trade, including the study of the problems of international commodity trade, the improvement of their transportation and communications facilities and the raising of the living standards of their peoples;
6. To promote Southeast Asian studies; and
7. To maintain close and beneficial cooperation with existing international and regional organisations with similar aims and purposes, and explore all avenues for even closer cooperation among themselves.

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

In their relations with one another, the ASEAN Member States have adopted the following fundamental principles, as contained in the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) of 1976:

1. Mutual respect for the independence, sovereignty, equality, territorial integrity, and national identity of all nations;
2. The right of every State to lead its national existence free from external interference, subversion or coercion;
3. Non-interference in the internal affairs of one another;
4. Settlement of differences or disputes by peaceful manner;
5. Renunciation of the threat or use of force; and
6. Effective cooperation among themselves.

ASEAN COMMUNITY

The ASEAN Vision 2020, adopted by the ASEAN Leaders on the 30th Anniversary of ASEAN, agreed on a shared vision of ASEAN as a concert of Southeast Asian nations, outward looking, living in peace, stability and prosperity, bonded together in partnership in dynamic development and in a community of caring societies.

At the 9th ASEAN Summit in 2003, the ASEAN Leaders resolved that an ASEAN Community shall be established.

At the 12th ASEAN Summit in January 2007, the Leaders affirmed their strong commitment to accelerate the establishment of an ASEAN Community by 2015 and signed the Cebu Declaration on the Acceleration of the Establishment of an ASEAN Community by 2015.

The ASEAN Community is comprised of three pillars, namely the ASEAN Political-Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community. Each pillar has its own Blueprint, and, together with the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Strategic Framework and IAI Work Plan Phase II (2009-2015), they form the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community 2009-2015.

ASEAN CHARTER

The ASEAN Charter serves as a firm foundation in achieving the ASEAN Community by providing legal status and institutional framework for ASEAN. It also codifies ASEAN norms, rules and values; sets clear targets for ASEAN; and presents accountability and compliance.

The ASEAN Charter entered into force on 15 December 2008. A gathering of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers was held at the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta to mark this very historic occasion for ASEAN.

With the entry into force of the ASEAN Charter, ASEAN will henceforth operate under a new legal framework and establish a number of new organs to boost its community-building process.

In effect, the ASEAN Charter has become a legally binding agreement among the 10 ASEAN Member States.

Note: The article above is sourced from the official portal of ASEAN at http://asean.org. Please visit the portal for more information and interesting facts about ASEAN.

IN NUMBERS

USD 4.64 Bil.

Malaysia - Vietnam bilateral trade
in January – May 2017

68

in January – May 2017

Engagements, outreach programs, and meetings organized by or involving the Consulate with various groups including local authorities, Malaysians in Ho Chi Minh City, businesses, students and youth organization.

Vietnam is Malaysia's

- 12th largest global trading partner;
- 10th largest exports destination;
- 10th largest source of imports.

36

in January – June 2017

Trade fairs, trade missions, joint promotion programs, business to business meetings, networking events and other activities involving the Consulate and MATRADE office.

73808

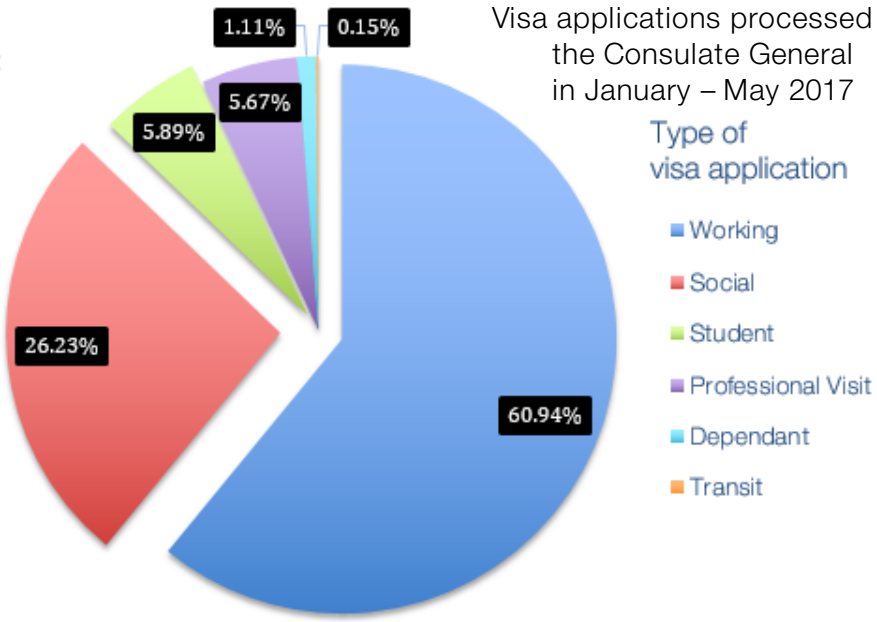
Vietnamese tourists visited Malaysia
in January – April 2017

Top five favourite destinations are:

- Kuala Lumpur/ Selangor/ Putrajaya
- Melaka
- Pahang (Genting Highland, Cameron Highland)
- Penang (Penang Island)
- Johor (LEGOLAND)

1357

Visa applications processed by the Consulate General
in January – May 2017



HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS (JANUARY – JUNE 2017)

1. GTC VIETNAM OPENED OFFICE IN HO CHI MINH CITY, 6 JANUARY 2017

The Consul General was invited to GTC's new office at Tecapro IT Building, Tan Binh District. GTC is a Malaysian provider of security solution, including CCTV and security software. The company was awarded the "SME Excellence Award 2016" by the ASEAN Business Advisory Council of Malaysia. GTC has set up an office in HCMC to better serve and explore the Vietnam market. In his remarks, the Consul General advised Malaysian companies to support one another, and find ways to give back to the local community through corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities. Also present was Mr Yazrin Syakhairi, Vice-Consul (Trade); Dato' Theng Bee Han, President of Malaysia Business Chamber Vietnam (MBC) and members of MBC.

The Consul-General commemorated GTC's launching ceremony in Ho Chi Minh City

2. COURTESY CALL BY THE CONSUL-GENERAL OF JAPAN, 7 APRIL 2017

The Consul-General received his Japanese counterpart - Mr. Jun-Ichi Kawaue - today. They exchanged views on a number of issues, including on Malaysia - Japan relations. 2017 marks the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Malaysia and Japan.

3. AMBASSADOR OF MALAYSIA'S WORKING VISIT TO HO CHI MINH CITY, 16 – 19 FEBRUARY 2017

Ambassador Zamruni Khalid was in Ho Chi Minh City from 16 – 19 February 2017. He was accompanied by the Consul General, Counsellor (Economic), Consul (Trade), and Vice Consul (Trade).

Ireka Healthcare Park at Binh Tan District.

Ireka Healthcare Park is a project developed by Ireka Group of Malaysia in Binh Tan District of Ho Chi Minh City. The 37.5-hectare project will integrate a hospital, specialised clinics, medical laboratory and medical university in one area.

Ambassador was invited by Vietjet Air to visit its office and training facility. Vietjet Air is the first privately owned international low-cost airline to be established in Vietnam.

Ambassador also visited Celadon City - a project by Gamuda to develop an integrated modern concept of living in Ho Chi Minh City.

4. AMBASSADOR OF MALAYSIA'S WORKING VISIT TO HO CHI MINH CITY, 11 – 13 APRIL 2017

PROMOTION OF MALAYSIA AS A HEALTHCARE TRAVEL DESTINATION AND LAUNCH OF MHTC'S WEBSITE

The event was officiated by Ambassador of Malaysia to Vietnam and attended by Consul General of Malaysia in Ho Chi Minh City, MATRADE & Tourism Malaysia. Also present were representatives from Malaysian hospitals including IJN, KPJ, Beverly Wilshire, Loh Guan Lye and Regency.

EMIVEST FEEDMILL VIETNAM LTD.

Meeting with Emivest Feedmill Vietnam Limited hosted by its General Director, Mr. Lau Joo Hong. The Malaysian-owned feedmill and animal genetics producer has 5 facilities in Binh Duong, Tien Giang, Dong Nai and Hai Duong with more than 1,200 employees.

HONG LEONG BANK VIETNAM

The delegation visited Hong Leong Bank Vietnam, CENTEC Tower followed by working lunch with senior management of the bank, hosted by Mr Raymond Sia, General Director.

5. CONSUL-GENERAL MET WITH DA NANG CITY LEADER TO PROMOTE MALAYSIA-DA NANG CITY TIES, 14 APRIL 2017

The Consul-General met with Mr. Ho Ky Minh, Vice-Chairman of the People's Committee in Da Nang City. At the meeting, the Consul-General and the Vice-Chairman exchanged views on strengthening ties in investment, trade, tourism and education, as well as encouraging people-to-people exchanges between Malaysia and Da Nang City. There are 18 investment projects by Malaysian companies worth an estimated USD 398 million in Da Nang City. The Vice-Chairman welcomes investments by Malaysian businesses as well as more direct flights between Malaysia and Da Nang City in the future, in addition to existing flights operated by Air Asia.

6. COURTESY CALL BY FOSCO

The Consul-General received a delegation from the Service Company for Foreign Missions, Ho Chi Minh City (FOSCO) on 3 May 2017. Heading the FOSCO delegation was Mr. Ho Trong Tri, Deputy Director General. FOSCO provides services to foreign consulates and international organisations - facilitating leasing of property and recruitment of staff among others. At the meeting, the Consulate and FOSCO renewed their ties of cooperation and friendship.

7. BRIDGING ASEAN, 16 MAY 2017

Seminar titiled "Bridging ASEAN" organised by Malaysia Business Chamber in Vietnam (MBC) and co-hosted by Standard Chartered in Sheraton Saigon on 16 May 2017.

8. FOUNDATION STONE LAYING OF DUYEN HAI 2 POWER PLANT, TRA VINH, 26 MAY 2017

The Consul-General joins Mr. Kim Ngoc Thai, Vice-Chairman of the People's Committee of Tra Vinh and Tan Sri Dr Abdul Hamid Pawanteh, Executive Chairman of Janakuasa Sdn Bhd to commemorate the progress of the power plant. In his remarks, the Consul-General wishes Janakuasa, Tra Vinh Province and its partners great successes with the project.

9. MINISTER OF DOMESTIC TRADE, COOPERATIVES & CONSUMERISM IN HCMC, 31 MAY - 3 JUNE 2017

Dato' Seri Hamzah Zainudin was in Ho Chi Minh City for a working visit from 31st May - 3rd June 2017. During his visit, the Minister promoted Malaysia's franchise brands/franchisors; and engaged with Vietnamese businesses/potential franchisors, Malaysian businesses and the Malaysian community in HCMC. 12 Malaysian franchisors - including Old Town Kopitiam, Manhattan Fish Market, GTC and Poney - participated in the Vietnam International Retail and Franchise Show.

Observing the holy month of Ramadhan, the Minister broke fast with the local Muslim community and presented donation to Dong Du Mosque.

10. DIALOGUE WITH LEADERS OF BAC LIEU PROVINCE, 12 JUNE 2017

The Chairman and senior officials of Bac Lieu province called on the Consul-General on 12 June 2017. At the meeting, officials exchanged views on potential areas of cooperation, as well as trade and investment opportunities. Bac Lieu province is located in the Mekong region, about 274 km southwest of Ho Chi Minh City. The province produces agricultural goods - mainly shrimp and rice. Bac Lieu has also attracted investments in renewable energy, and would like to see more investments into this sector.

11. COURTESY CALL ON CHAIRMAN OF HUFO, 13 JUNE 2017

The Consul-General called on Chairman Huynh Minh Thien on 13 June 2017. HUFO stands for the Ho Chi Minh City Union of Friendship Organisation - an umbrella group of friendship associations including the Vietnam-Malaysia Friendship Association (hufo.hochiminhcity.gov.vn)

The Consul-General and Chairman Thien discussed ideas and proposals for joint activities to promote Vietnam-Malaysia ties.

12. COURTESY CALL BY MS CATHERINE BIRCH OF FASHION ADVOCATE, 14 JUNE 2017

Fashion Advocate works with international partners to promote culture, fashion, the arts and artistic creativity (www.fashionadvocate.com).

Ms Catherine Birch - the driving force behind Fashion Advocate - met the Consul-General to introduce herself and exchange views on how the Consulate, Fashion Advocate and the Malaysian business community in HCMC can work together.

13. LAUNCH OF EMERALD PRECINCT IN CELADON CITY, 18 JUNE 2017

On 18 June, Gamuda Land unveiled Emerald Precinct, the newest part of its Celadon City project in Tan Phu district, HCMC. The Consul-General and Mr. Wyeren Yap of Gamuda Land formally launched the new precinct at an event held in HCMC.

Moonlight Saigon – Sài Gòn không tắt nắng

Produksi Seni 2020 Sdn Bhd, a well-known Malaysian television production company is currently filming “Moonlight Saigon”, a first joint Malaysian - Vietnamese drama series partly set in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam and the Klang Valley, Malaysia.

“Moonlight Saigon” is a love story and a crime drama. The storyline showcases the cultures of both Malaysia and Vietnam, and will hopefully highlight the two countries among viewers.

The Consul-General had a chance to visit the set of "Moonlight Saigon" and met the production team, cast and crew in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. The Consul-General was warmly welcomed by Dato' Nancie Foo, Executive Director of Produksi Seni Duapuluh-Duapuluh Sdn. Bhd and her Vietnamese partner, STV Cable Television Company.

Visa bulletin

The One Stop Centre (OSC) for Malaysian Visa application commenced in Vietnam on 17 March 2017. The OSC aims to provide centralized customer service in a prompt and efficient manner. The OSC in Vietnam is operated by VFS Global.

All Vietnamese and foreign workers living and working in Vietnam who wish to apply for Malaysia visas should submit their applications to one of the following offices:

- Hanoi: 3rd floor, Gelex Tower, # 52 Le Dai Hanh, Hai Ba Trung District.
- Ho Chi Minh City: 4th floor, Resco Tower, 94-96 Nguyen Du, District 1.

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