

PTM ASEAN E-NEWLETTER VOLUME 1/2017

ASEAN@50
EDITION

HIGHLIGHTS

ASEAN@50

ENGAGEMENT OF
THE CPRASEAN-DIALOGUE
PARTNER
RELATIONSOUTREACH
PROGRAMME AND
ACTIVITIES

HAPPENINGS

ASEAN CALENDAR
201720
days to go

"Fifty years after its founding, ASEAN has progressed and evolved beyond the expectations and aspirations of our forefathers. We will continue to evolve to move beyond the meaningful, competitive and robust regional grouping that ASEAN already is, exploring new frontiers of cooperation, defined by our principles and values, for the peoples of ASEAN."

H.E. Amb. Dato' Shariffah Norhana Syed Mustaffa
Permanent Representative of Malaysia to ASEAN

H.E. Amb.
Dato'
Shariffah
Norhana Syed
Mustaffa,
Permanent
Representative
of Malaysia to
ASEAN quote
for ASEAN
Secretariat's
social media
campaign in
conjunction of
the 50th
Anniversary of
ASEAN.



ASEAN TURNS 50 IN 2017
WE ARE CELEBRATING THIS REMARKABLE
MILESTONE
WITH A SPECIAL CAMPAIGN
"VISIT ASEAN@50: GOLDEN
CELEBRATION"

VISIT ASEAN@50: GOLDEN CELEBRATION will highlight
ASEAN's best 50 festivals and 50 most unforgettable travel experiences.

Visitors can experience ASEAN's diverse destinations, from culinary experiences and events to engaging with local communities. Special promotions will be curated for our guests to enjoy the richness of ASEAN's culture, heritage and nature - and above all, to feel the warmth of ASEAN hospitality.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ptmasean/>

Twitter: MYASEANPTM

JANUARY

MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES

ENGAGEMENT OF THE CPR WITH NON-ASEAN AMBASSADORS ACCREDITED TO ASEAN IN JAKARTA, 25 JANUARY 2017



The first engagement of the CPR with the Non - ASEAN Ambassadors accredited to ASEAN in Jakarta (NAAAs) was held on 25 January 2017. This activity was aimed at facilitating engagement between the Committee of

Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR) and the Non-ASEAN Ambassadors accredited to ASEAN (NAAAs) in Jakarta, in line with the Guidelines adopted at the 14/2016 CPR Meeting in Vientiane, Laos.

The gathering was attended by all the CPR, Ambassadors accredited to ASEAN in Jakarta or their representative excluding those from Dialogue Partner, Sectoral Dialogue Partner, and Development Partner countries as well as those from regional organizations with whom ASEAN regularly cooperates, and the ASEAN Secretariat.

The purpose of the gathering was also to introduce the NAAAs to the CPR, particularly their respective Country Coordinators, as well as to familiarize the NAAAs with ASEAN and relevant mechanisms that operated in Jakarta. Malaysia currently acts as the country coordinator for the Middle East Group which consist of Iraq, Jordan, Turkey and Yemen.

The gathering was also used as a platform to initiate more regular engagement between the NAAAs and the CPR, both through formal and informal meetings.

ASEAN FUN FACTS



Istana Nurul Iman was included in the Guinness Book of Records as the world's largest residential palace.



The Cambodian flag is the only flag in the world to feature a building.



The Borobudur Temple in Magelang, Central Java, Indonesia is the world's largest Buddhist temple and also one of the greatest Buddhist monuments in the world.



ASEAN
COMMUNITY

“The ASEAN Community 2015 is a community of opportunities under three community pillars: Political - Security Community, Economic Community, and Socio -Cultural Community”.

FEBRUARY & MARCH

MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES

ASEAN FUN FACTS



New Year in Laos is celebrated for 3 days



Myanmar is known as "The Golden Country".



The Philippines is the second largest archipelago in the world.

ACTIP ENTERS INTO FORCE



The ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP), signed on 21 November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, entered into force on 8 March 2017 following the deposit of the sixth instrument of ratification by the Philippines to the ASEAN Secretariat. The ACTIP, is a manifestation of ASEAN’s continued resolve to combat Trafficking in Persons, provides effective safeguards and protection to victims of trafficking. This Convention will also promote closer cooperation and collaboration among enforcement agencies in ASEAN in the fight against trafficking in persons.

The Launching of *Negaraku* Expression Programme



On 18 March 2017, Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato’ Sri Najib Tun Abdul Razak launched the "*Ekspresi Negaraku*" (Negaraku Expression) programme at Dataran Putrajaya. The programme, aimed at showcasing Malaysia’s multiracial, multiethnic and multi-religious unity and for Malaysians to demonstrate their feelings and expressions of patriotism for the country.

The Prime Minister, in launching the programme said, "*Patriotism is the foundation and main element for a strong identity which we need to foster if we want to be a nation that is peaceful, harmonious and united, "...."This is the country of our birth, the place where we toddled when we were small, were schooled and grew up in, earn a living as adults and when the time comes, we will be laid to rest here, where we were born, "*

Among the initiatives under the *Negaraku* programme include a national arts competition, storytelling competition, poster competition, and art exhibition In conjunction with this year’s National Day, we call on all Malaysians to support the

“Ekspresi *Negaraku*” campaign to further the objective of the campaign to help inculcate the spirit of patriotism. Further information on the campaign is available at <http://www.negaraku.com>.

APRIL

MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES

THE 8TH ASEAN-US JCC MEETING



The 8th ASEAN-United States (US) Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) Meeting was held on 4 April 2017 at the ASEAN Secretariat. The Meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Dato' Shariffah Norhana Syed Mustaffa, Permanent Representative of Malaysia to ASEAN and Chargé d'affaires Jane Bocklage of the US Mission to ASEAN. The Meeting was attended by the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR), their representatives and ASEAN Secretariat officials. The US delegation comprised officials from the US Mission to ASEAN as well as officials from the State Department in Washington DC.

The Meeting noted the progress of the ASEAN Community building efforts under the Philippines Chairmanship theme "Partnering for Change, Engaging the World". The Meeting also noted the work of the CPR as well as updates in other ASEAN led mechanisms such as the ARF, EAS and the ADMM Plus that played a central role in the evolving regional architecture. The Meeting noted US support to ASEAN's efforts in addressing trafficking in persons and countering violent extremism. The Meeting also noted the briefing by the US on cyber-security, an issue recognised as a priority under the Trump Administration.



The US stressed the importance of addressing the threats and challenges in cyber security and the importance of international collaboration in addressing the issue. The Meeting noted the interest of the US to work closely with ASEAN across a broad range of platforms, to promote shared principles, implement confidence building measures and strengthen cyber capacity throughout the region. US also expressed interest with regard to ASEAN's Cyber Security Strategy, whereby the US was of the view that it may assist in addressing the gaps and challenges given its expertise and capacities in combatting cybercrime.



"...collaboration and cooperation among sectoral bodies have been further enhanced and institutionalised to address common threats such as transnational crime and non-traditional issues..."

NEW KING OF MALAYSIA

Sultan Muhammad V, 15th Yang di-Pertuan Agong



His Highness Seri Paduka Baginda Yang di-Pertuan Agong XV Sultan Muhammad V



His Royal Highness Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah, Deputy Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia

Profile of Sultan Muhammad V, 15th Yang di-Pertuan Agong

- His Highness Seri Paduka Baginda Yang di-Pertuan Agong XV Sultan Muhammad V was born on Oct 6, 1969 at Istana Batu, Kota Baru, Kelantan.
- His Highness received his early education at Sekolah Sultan Ismail 1 Kota Baru before continuing his studies at the International School Kuala Lumpur.
- He was appointed the Tengku Mahkota of Kelantan on Oct 6, 1985.
- On Sept 13, 2010, he ascended the throne of Kelantan and used the title, Sultan Muhammad V, after his proclamation as the 29th Sultan of Kelantan.
- In 2016, the Conference of Rulers appointed him as the 15th Seri Paduka Baginda Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia, effective for a five-year period from Dec 13, 2016.
- Sultan Muhammad V was installed as the 15th Yang di-Pertuan Agong at the throne room of Istana Negara on 24 April 2017.

Profile of Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah, Deputy Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia

- Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah Al-Maghfur-lah is the 35th Sultan of Perak. He is currently the Deputy Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia, elected on 14 October 2016.
- Born on Nov 27, 1957, he is the eldest son of the late Sultan Azlan Shah and Tuanku Siti Bainun Mohd Ali, who holds a doctorate in Economics, Politics and Government from Harvard University.
- Sultan Nazrin, 59, has held various positions including as Chancellor of University Malaya and Honorary Fellow of Worcester College, Oxford University.

MAY

MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES

INTERFACE BETWEEN THE COMMITTEE OF THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES TO ASEAN (CPR) WITH THE ASEAN INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (AICHR) AND WITH THE ASEAN DISABILITY FORUM



The interface between the CPR and the AICHR was held on 17 May 2017 at the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC), chaired by H.E. Elisabeth P. Buensuceso, Permanent Representative of the Philippines to ASEAN and H.E. Leo Herrera-Lim, the Representative of the Philippines to AICHR. The Meeting was attended by all Permanent Representatives of ASEAN and the Representatives to AICHR or their representatives. Prior to the interface with the AICHR, the CPR also had an interface with the ASEAN Disability Forum, which was co-chaired by H.E. Buensuceso and Mr. Ngin Saorath, Chair of the ADF and Representative of Cambodia to the ADF.

CPR-AICHR Interface

The CPR Chair reiterated the role of the CPR in assisting the AICHR in promoting human rights in ASEAN. As negotiator of declarations and statements between ASEAN and the Dialogue Partners (DP), the CPR would ensure that the AICHR agenda would remain at the fore front of these negotiations and to be included in these documents.

The CPR Chair encouraged the AICHR to engage with the DPs as potential AICHR partners on human rights and also felt that the APT would be a good platform to do so.

The CPR, as coordinator of cross-sectoral pillar issues, expressed their readiness to assist the AICHR in the

mainstreaming of the issue of human rights across the different pillars. The CPR, as the approving body for AICHR projects, would continue to support and facilitate the approval of AICHR programmes and activities.

CPR-ASEAN Disability Forum Interface (ADF)

The CPR Chair briefed the ADF on the role of the CPR in ASEAN and vis-à-vis its external partners, including championing the rights and welfare of persons with disabilities in negotiated documents.

The ADF Chair briefed the Meeting on the background, missions and programmes of the ADF and its work plan. The ADF, established in Bangkok in 2011, is a network composed of the representatives of Disabled Peoples' Organisations (DPOs) from 10 ASEAN Member States. Malaysia's representative was Mr. Mohamad Sazali Shaari, President of the Malaysian Federation of the Deaf and President of the Malaysian Confederation of the Disabled.

The main objectives of the ADF are to mainstream disability issues in all ASEAN community by promoting an inclusive and persons with disability-friendly ASEAN community.



FUN

The largest Tropical Orchid Garden in the world is found in Singapore



FACTS

Thailand was actually known as Siam until 1939 (and again from 1945 to 1949).



The largest cave in the world is in Vietnam and has its own forests inside.

JUNE

MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES

17TH ASEAN-INDIA JOINT COOPERATION COMMITTEE MEETING



The 17th ASEAN-India Joint Cooperation Committee Meeting (AIJCC) was held on 8 June 2017 at the ASEAN Secretariat. The Meeting was Co-chaired by H.E. Nguyen Hoanh Nam, Permanent Representative of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to ASEAN, Country Coordinator for ASEAN – India Relations, and H.E. Suresh K. Reddy, Ambassador of India to ASEAN and attended by the Members of the CPR and the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC).

Both sides acknowledged that this year marked a special year as ASEAN and India celebrate 25 years of relationship. The Meeting also acknowledged that much progress has been made and ties between ASEAN and India have been progressing well since the establishment of its formal partnership in 1992.

During the Meeting, both ASEAN and India exchanged views on the developments in ASEAN and in India. The Meeting noted on the briefing by ASEC on the developments in ASEAN including the progress made by ASEAN in addressing common threats and security issues in the region such as transnational crime, food security and humanitarian assistance. Both sides also agreed to enhance cooperation in areas of concern between ASEAN and India.

The PR of the Philippines briefed the Meeting on the priorities listed under the Philippines Chairmanship, as well as encouraged all ASEAN Member States and India to work together in ensuring the successful implementation of RCEP this year.

On the developments in India, the Meeting was informed that the Government of India is currently embarking in a large infrastructure development.



The Meeting was also informed that India would be introducing the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in early July this year. It would be a significant step in the reform of indirect taxation in India and by merging several Central and State taxes into a single tax, it would be expected to mitigate cascading or double taxation, which will lead to easier administration and enforcement.

Malaysia in its intervention encouraged India to increase its investments in ASEAN and promote greater business linkages between the private sectors. The Meeting was also briefed on the Progress of the Implementation of the ASEAN-India Plan of Action 2016-2020 and the Progress of the Implementation of the List of Priorities for 2016-2018 of the ASEAN-India Plan of Action 2016-2020.

MY INTERNSHIP AT THE PERMANENT MISSION OF MALAYSIA TO ASEAN

I am Azril Hakiki Bin Dulmurid, a masters student in ASEAN Studies, of the Asia Europe Institute (AEI), University of Malaya (UM). My programme required that I undertake a two months of internship at a public or private institution or organisation. As I have always been interested to know the inner workings of ASEAN, I took a chance and made a request for an internship at Permanent Mission of Malaysia to ASEAN (PTM ASEAN), and to my surprise I was accepted.

I must say that the internship had opened my eyes and mind to the works of ASEAN. I had always known that ASEAN held hundreds of meetings through-out the year. I did not expect that most meetings would be intense, substantive-packed and of long duration!! Adjusting to the long durations of meetings was hard enough, but what really tested and amazed me was the ability of diplomats deliberate and move to various subject matters in one seating. From community building efforts, to functional cooperation, external relations as well as ASEAN Secretariat operations, the Committee of Permanent Representatives of ASEAN and the Working Group discussed and made decisions on matters of interest to ASEAN. At the same time documents such as Action Plans, Cooperation Agreements, statements were also negotiated with the various dialogue partners. All this is done in close coordination with “capitals” or Foreign Ministries back home.

The Working Group negotiations was no place for the reticent and shy. I was proud to see how our diplomats explained, fought, manoeuvred and ensured that national interest was preserved, protected and enhanced. It was also interesting to see ASEAN Member States coming together, in facing challenges from outside of ASEAN – which reflects that ASEAN has become a unified force in the

region as envisaged by the Founding Fathers.

PTM ASEAN also helped me in my mini thesis paper on terrorism. I was introduced to other foreign diplomats, ASEAN Secretariat and UN officials as well as contacts in think tanks in Jakarta that dealt with the issue of terrorism. A meeting worth mentioning was with Mr. Mark Harris, the UN Liaisons Officer to ASEAN, as he shared the UN’s perspective and work on preventing and countering violent extremism in the region, which included interviews with terrorist detainees. That provided much perspective and input on soft tools used in the field, which was the focus of my thesis.

Besides work related meetings and ASEAN meetings that I was allowed to attend, I was also involved in outside activities. I joined PTM’s officers in the EU-ASEAN Run 2017 that was organised to celebrate the 40th anniversary of ASEAN-EU relations. I joined the Mission in an outreach activity to promote ASEAN to Malaysian Student leaders in Indonesia. I also helped the Mission in hosting a “moreh”, as the second month of the internship was during Ramadhan itself. Sadly, the two months of my internship went by pretty fast.

All in all it was a very enriching experience. I realised that the CPR was only one of the many moving parts that make ASEAN. Nonetheless, the work of ASEAN CPR will continue to amaze me.

At the end, I would like to express my appreciation to H.E. Dato’ Shariffah Norhana Syed Mustaffa, Permanent Representative of Malaysia to ASEAN for your guidance and this enriching experience and the valuable opportunity that has enlightened me. My gratitude also goes out to all the other officers who took the time to share their work, thoughts and experiences in dealing with the various issues under their purview. I am proud to know all of you and proud that you are representing Malaysia at ASEAN.

I have a new understanding of ASEAN, the work of Malaysian diplomats overseas and what needs to be done to create a successful ASEAN community. I know that I am part of that process too and I hope to contribute in my own ways to promote ASEAN. One thing for sure, I will promote other students to do their internship at PTM ASEAN!!!



The author with Mr. Mark Harris, UN Liaison officer to ASEAN

OUTREACH PROGRAMME & ACTIVITIES



Outreach Programme with *Kepimpinan Persatuan Kebangsaan Pelajar Malaysia di Indonesia (PKPMI)*, Malaysia Hall, Jakarta, 13 May 2017



ASEAN-EU Run in commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of EU-ASEAN Dialogue Relations, the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of ASEAN and the 60th Anniversary of the Treaties of Rome and the creation of the EU, 7 May 2017.

SEA Games Baton Run, Jakarta, 30 April 2017.



Moreh @ Surau Kedutaan Besar Malaysia Jakarta, 1 June 2017



Azril Hakiki's Farewell @ Raffles Hotel Jakarta, 11 June 2017



The 7 Summit Challenge flag handing over ceremony on 29 May 2017. The expedition is part of the ASEAN-India commemorative celebrations, whereby an Indian led team of mountain climbers attempt to climb the highest mountain peaks of seven continents



VIP VISITS TO ASEC & HAPPENINGS



U.S. Vice President Mike Pence visit to the ASEAN Secretariat, 20 April 2017.

Vice President Pence is the highest ranking U.S. official to visit the ASEAN Secretariat thus far. As part of the visit, Vice President Pence met with Secretary-General of ASEAN Le Luong Minh, the Permanent Representatives of ASEAN Member States and members of the Young Southeast Asia Leaders Initiative (YSEALI), a key U.S. initiative in strengthening people-to-people ties among the youth in ASEAN. Vice President Pence reaffirmed the U.S.’ continued commitment to strengthen and deepen its strategic partnership with ASEAN during his historic visit

President of Chile Michelle Bachelet visited the ASEAN Secretariat, 12 May 2017

Chilean President Bachelet met with Secretary-General of ASEAN Le Luong Minh during her visit. Both sides underscored the importance of furthering ASEAN-Chile economic cooperation, enhancing connectivity and tourism between the two regions. Both sides also highlighted the importance of implementing the ASEAN-Pacific Alliance Framework for Cooperation through concrete activities in the areas of economics, education and people-to-people contacts, science, technology and innovation, and sustainable development.



Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed visit to ASEAN Secretariat, 13 June 2017,

Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed, Malaysia’s Minister of International Trade and Industry met with Secretary-General of ASEAN Le Luong Minh and Senior Officials of the ASEAN Secretariat to discuss the implementation of the targets and goals set forth under the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint.



IMPORTANT DATES

DATE	EVENT
AUGUST	
2-8 August 2017	50th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM) and Post-Ministerial Conferences/ 18th ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Meeting (18th APT FMM)/7th East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers Meeting (7th EAS FMM)/24th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)
8 August 2017	Grand Commemorative Celebration of ASEAN’s 50th Anniversary
22-23 August 2017	IAI Regional Workshop
11 August 2017	50th ASEAN Day
SEPTEMBER	
4-10 September 2017	49th AEM Meeting and Related Meetings
11-14 September 2017	23rd SOCA Meeting and 18th ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC)
OCTOBER	
10-13 October 2017	ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting (SOM), Joint Consultative Meeting and Other Related Meetings
NOVEMBER	
10-14 November 2017	31st ASEAN Summits and Related Meetings
14 November 2017	Special Celebration of ASEAN’s 50th Anniversary with the Leaders