



**EMBASSY OF MALAYSIA
IN KUWAIT
E-NEWSLETTER ISSUE 2
(JULY – SEPTEMBER 2015)**



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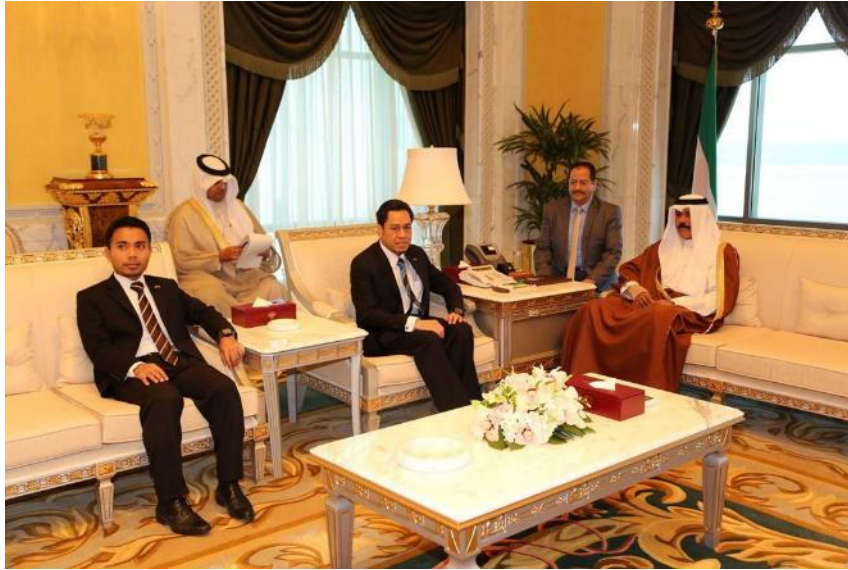
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HIGHLIGHTS JULY-SEPTEMBER 2015

Following Ambassador Ahmad Rozian's presentation of Letters of Credence to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on 17 June 2015, the Ambassador got down to work and met with a number of local leaders from the government, semi-government and private sectors. These meetings gave the Ambassador the opportunity to formally introduce himself and discuss issues of mutual interest to Malaysia and Kuwait. The Ambassador was granted an audience with His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at Seif Palace on 11 August 2015. Other important meetings include those with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence; various other Ministers and Heads of Government Agencies.

The highlight in Malaysia-Kuwait bilateral relations during the period under review was the meeting between the Honourable Dato' Sri Anifah Aman, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia and His Excellency Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait, on the sideline of the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on 27 September 2015 (photo below).





Audience with His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait, 11 August 2015 at Seif Palace

Courtesy Call on His Excellency Lieutenant General Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, 9 August 2015



Courtesy Call on His Excellency Bader Hamad Al-Essa, Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education, 14 July 2015



Courtesy Call on His Excellency Dr. Yousef Mohammed Al-Ali,
Minister of Commerce and Industry, 26 July 2015

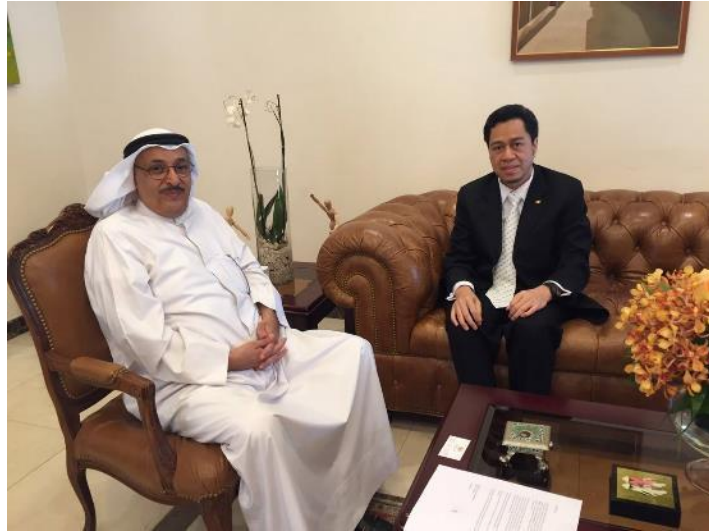


Courtesy Call on His
Excellency Sheikh Salman
Sabah Salem Al-Homoud Al-
Sabah, Minister of Information
and Minister of State for
Youth Affairs, 4 August 2015



Courtesy Call on Her Excellency
Hind Subaih Barak Al-Subaih,
Minister of Social Affairs & Labour
and Minister of State for Planning
& Development, 5 August 2015

Meeting with
Minister Plenipotentiary
Musaed Saleh Al-Thwaikh,
Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister
for Asian Affairs,
5 July 2015



Meeting with Ambassador
Adul Hamad Al-Ayyar,
Assistant Foreign Minister for
Economic Affairs,
1 July 2015

Meetings with Heads of Semi-Government Agencies and Commercial Leaders



Meeting with Mr. Ali
Mohammed Thunayan Al-
Ghanim, President, Kuwait
Chamber of Commerce and
Industry (KCCI) (R) and Mr.
Rabah Abdulrehman Al-
Rabah, Director General of
KCCI (L), 1 July 2015



Meeting with His Excellency Sheikh Nawaf S. Al-Sabah, Chief Executive Officer of Kuwait Petroleum Exploration Company (KUFPEC), 7 July 2015

Meeting with Mr. Bader Mohammad Al-Saad, Managing Director of Kuwait Investment Agency (KIA), 14 July 2015



Meeting with Mr. Mazin Saad Alnahedh, Group Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Kuwait Finance House (KFH), 27 July 2015

Meetings with Newspaper Editors-in-Chief



Meeting with Mr. Ahmed Al-Jarallah, Editor-in-Chief of the Arab Times, 7 July 2015



Meeting with Mr. Abd. Al-Rahman Al-Alyan, Editor-in-Chief of the Kuwait Times, 14 July 2015

LOCAL

ARAB TIMES, SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2015

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Kuwaiti PM to take part in Islamic Economic Forum

Malaysia one of biggest commercial partners in GCC: Ghani

By Shawki Mahmoud
Al-Seyassah Staff

After the Ambassador of Malaysia to Kuwait His Excellency Ahmad Rozian Abdul Ghani presented his credentials to His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in June 2015, he worked on a plan to strengthen the relations between the two countries, increase bilateral cooperation particularly in the fields of commerce, investment, energy, tourism, education and sports, and encourage exchange of visits by top officials and leaders of the two countries.

In his first press interview after arriving in Kuwait on April 19, 2015, the ambassador said Malaysia is waiting for His Highness the Prime Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to accept the invitation of his Malaysian counterpart Najib Razak to participate in the 11th International Islamic Economic Forum, which will be held

May 2015. Earlier, facilitated the working visit of His Excellency Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, former Prime Minister of Malaysia who was invited to deliver a keynote address at the Gulf Leaders' Summit on 10 and 11 May 2015. These high-level visits had set the right tone as I embarked on advancing the relations between Malaysia and Kuwait.

I am determined to elevate Malaysia-Kuwait relations to a higher level. Since my arrival, I have met and will continue to meet the gamut of Kuwait's leadership, both in the public and private sectors. I have been fortunate that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other government and relevant agencies have been accommodative. I also believe that it is important to foster good relations with the media.

Moving forward, I plan to further enhance Malaysia-Kuwait cooperation in all fields, particularly trade, investment, finance, energy, tourism, education, sports, youth and technical cooperation. These objectives could be achieved via various means such as encouraging more exchanges of visit at all levels. Trade and investment missions as well as tourism and education promotional activities would continue to be encouraged in both Malaysia and Kuwait.

Q: Are there any official visits between senior officials soon?



Malaysian Ambassador to Kuwait Ahmad Rozian Abdul Ghani during an interview with Shawki Mahmoud.

Malaysian LNG exports to Kuwait and Kuwaiti petroleum exports to Malaysia.

In 2014, Kuwait was Malaysia's 41st largest trading partner globally and 3rd largest trading partner in the GCC. Machinery and appliances, wood and wood products and palm oil are the

Putrajaya) from Peninsular Malaysia which is separated by the South China Sea from East Malaysia which includes the 2 states (Sabah and Sarawak on the island of Borneo) and a third federal territory, the island of Labuan.

One of Malaysia's key attractions is its extreme contrasts which further add

Lumpur route, albeit with one stop such as Malaysia Airlines (codeshare with Etihad), Emirates, Qatar Airways, Oman Air, Sri Lankan Airlines and Turkish Airlines.

Q: What is the volume of Kuwait investments in Malaysia, whether governmental or private sector?

A: Investment cross-flows between both countries are encouraging. Nevertheless, I believe more can be done. To date, major Kuwaiti investments in Malaysia include those by Kuwait Finance House (KFH), Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company (KUPPEC) and Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA).

KIA has a productive presence in Malaysia, reflected for example, in its investment of US\$150 million in Malaysia's IHH Healthcare IPO in 2012. KUPPEC is also involved in major joint exploration of oil and gas in Malaysia in partnership with Malaysia's PETRONAS and other international partners. KFH which launched its investment in Malaysia in 2006, has made great accomplishments in both Islamic banking and in real estate.

On the other hand, Malaysian investments in Kuwait have seen encouraging signs in recent years. Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) and its Kuwait partner Kharafi National are in cooperation to operate and maintain the

2015, did you invite the Kuwaiti companies to participate and what are the objectives of this Forum?

A: As mentioned earlier, the 11th World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF) will be held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 3 to 5 November 2015. The Forum is hosted by the Government of Malaysia with the theme "Building Resilience for Equitable Growth". The Honourable Dato' Sri Najib Tun Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia and Patron of the WIEF Foundation will deliver the keynote address at the forum. An invitation has been extended to His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait, to deliver a Special Address at the Opening Ceremony of the 11th WIEF.

This Forum aims to enhance the economic well-being of the people of Muslim nations and Muslim communities worldwide through increasing trade and business opportunities amongst them, as well as the world at large. The Forum also aims at packaging the Muslim world as a lucrative trade and investment destination which is able to attract foreign investors and business partners from various countries worldwide; and strengthening networking and foster strategic alliances

Ambassador Ahmad Rozian's interview with the Arab Times, published on 23 August 2015

ASEAN ACTIVITIES IN KUWAIT

Ambassador Ahmad Rozian chairs the ASEAN Committee in Kuwait (ACK) for 2015. The ACK comprises the respective Ambassadors of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

The months of July, August and September 2015 witnessed some important developments in the ACK, in terms of joint-events and relations with local political leaders. Notably, the ACK Ambassadors made a number of joint-calls on local Governors. The ASEAN Day was also celebrated on 8 August 2015.



ASEAN DAY, 8 AUGUST 2015

The ACK celebrated the 48th ASEAN Day at the Embassy of Malaysia on 8 August 2015. The ceremony began with the singing of ASEAN anthem “The ASEAN Way” followed by remarks by Ambassador Ahmad Rozian. The event was held in an atmosphere of joy and camaraderie with guests served with an array of delicious ASEAN cuisine prepared by each embassy.



Ambassador Ahmad Rozian Abd Ghani joined other ASEAN Ambassadors in Kuwait at a courtesy call on His Excellency Fawaz Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Governor of Al-Ahmadi, 22 July 2015



Ambassador Ahmad Rozian and other ASEAN Ambassadors in Kuwait made a courtesy call on His Excellency Lieutenant General (Ret.) Thabet Mohammed Al-Muhana, Governor of Al-Asima (Capital), 26 July 2015



The ASEAN Ambassadors in Kuwait jointly called on His Excellency Lieutenant General (Ret.) Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Governor of Hawalli, 28 July 2015

The ASEAN Ambassadors in Kuwait made a joint call on His Excellency General (Ret.) Fahad Ahmed Al-Amir, Governor of Al-Jahra, 29 July 2015



4th ACK BOWLING TOURNAMENT, 14 AUGUST 2015



On 14 August 2015, the ACK held its 4th annual bowling tournament at the Bowl Room of the 360 Mall in Al-Zahra, Kuwait. Three teams consisting of three bowlers each from the Embassies of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam participated in the tournament. The Red Team (Laos, the Philippines and Cambodia) emerged as overall champion. The Blue Team (Malaysia, Myanmar and Thailand) came in as 1st Runner-Up, with the Yellow Team (Brunei, Vietnam and Indonesia) following as 2nd Runner-Up. Ambassador Ahmad Rozian won both the top scorer trophies (overall and Ambassador's category), while Mr. Madayao Lucman from the Philippine Embassy won the "Turkey" trophy.

ACK AMBASSADORS MEETING, 9 SEPTEMBER 2015



On 9 September 2015, Ambassador Ahmad Rozian chaired the 4th ACK Ambassadors meeting of 2015. The meeting took place at the Bunga Raya Meeting Room of the Embassy of Malaysia in Kuwait. The meeting was attended by the Ambassadors (or their representatives) of all ASEAN Member States in Kuwait and was followed by lunch.

MALAYSIAN TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME (MTCP) ALUMNI ACTIVITIES



On 17 September 2015, Ambassador Ahmad Rozian hosted a morning-tea at the Embassy of Malaysia in Kuwait for past participants from Kuwait of various courses in Malaysia under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP). The meeting decided to establish the MTCP Alumni in Kuwait with Dr. Eng. Abdullah Al-Rashed, Assistant Professor at the Kuwait Public Authority for Applied Education and Training as the Alumni's first Chairperson. To date, a total of 43 participants from Kuwait have attended various short-term courses under the MTCP in Malaysia.



MALAYSIANS IN ACTION

ASIAN FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION (AFC) CUP
(SEMI-FINAL 1ST LEG)
QADSIYA V. JOHOR DARUL TA'ZIM
KUWAIT SPORT CLUB STADIUM, 29 SEPTEMBER 2015



HIGHLIGHTS OF EVENTS WITH THE MALAYSIAN COMMUNITY



Iftar and Terawikh, Embassy of Malaysia, 19 & 26 June 2015 and 3 July 2015



Ramadan “Street Iftar” by the Malaysian Community



In the last week of Ramadan, the Malaysian Community in Kuwait, in cooperation with the Embassy of Malaysia organised a “Street Iftar”, in which a total of 1,700 “Iftar packages” were distributed to the needy in Kuwait.



**Solat Sunat Hari Raya Aidilfitri and Open House,
Embassy of Malaysia, 17 July 2015**



Aidiladha Celebrations at the Embassy of Malaysia, 24 September 2015



Farewell to Mohd Faeiz Md Nor, Shamsiah Abdul Rahman and Family



GETTING TO KNOW YOU

The Embassy of Malaysia is pleased to introduce this new section, to allow the Malaysian community in Kuwait to get better acquainted with officials from the Embassy, as well as members of the Malaysian community. Any member of the Malaysian community is welcomed to submit admissions with pictures (1 to 2 pages in MSWord format) to mwkuwait@kln.gov.my under the header (MWKUWAIT ENEWSLETTER READER SUBMISSION). The Embassy may make minor editorial amendments to submissions. We look forward to hearing from you.

Mikhail Harith

President of the Malaysian Association of Kuwait (MAK) for 2015

Assalamualaikum. I was asked to do a write up on my family and our experience of living in Kuwait for the Malaysian Embassy's newsletter. Having lived here for three and a half years is about halfway what we would call a decent amount of time in order to try and understand life in Kuwait, but in no way close to knowing all of it, so we are surprised almost on a daily basis. Please do read on as I share our experiences so far.

The first thing that you notice as you step out of the airport is the heat. Arriving in May meant that the Kuwaiti Summer had just started picking up steam, blowing winds at about 45 degrees Celsius. Luckily, I had a company car that picked me up and sent me to my temporary living arrangements in Mangaf, south of Kuwait City. Thus began the first day of living here.



There are a few achievements in life that you celebrate wholeheartedly. High school graduation, getting your degree, marriage and the birth of your first child. I can reassure you that living in Kuwait has added a few items to that list. Getting your Civil ID followed by a driving license bestowed the same sense of elation as the events in the list above! As public transportation is a bit lacking in Kuwait, the driving license opens up more of the country called Kuwait than you usually see without a vehicle.

Coming from Kuala Lumpur, and travelling 30 km daily to the office and facing the infamous KL traffic jams has desensitized us to the amount of time we actually spend in cars. What the Kuwaitis and expats here call traffic jams are equivalent to us leaving our housing areas back homes, which is almost laughable.



Food. The choice of restaurants in Kuwait is immeasurable, catering to all kinds of desires and tastes. Arab, Asian, European, U.S. chains and South American palates are easily sated. You can also find (not so tasty) durians and jackfruit most times at the super market. However, there is a simple rule to know when you need a vacation to go back to Malaysia, and that is when everything starts tasting bland and you don't know what to eat. It is akin to a lady having 4 or 5 wardrobes full of clothes, but still have nothing to wear. Malaysians will always be Malaysian, and Malaysian food is always number one! Alhamdulillah, so far we have managed to return for Hari Raya every year we have been here.



All-in-all, Kuwait has been a comfortable experience for us and has its ups and downs. Living abroad opens up your eyes to different cultures and Kuwaitis generally have a healthy respect for Malaysians. That is only once you let them know that you aren't from Indonesia or the Philippines though!

Azeli Azalan

Senior Project Manager at Sultan Telecom



Journey to Kuwait

My name is Azeli bin Azalan. I am a Senior Project Manager at Sultan Telecom. I came to Kuwait in 2005. Having prior experiences in Malaysia, Asia and Europe, I find the work culture here totally different from elsewhere. Working with the Arabs has taught me to be much more patient, but firm.

In this region, Western or European minds are considered to be superior to the rest of the world's minds. As an Asian, this proved to be a challenge at first. Nowadays, meetings with the local Ministries and the company's Board of Directors, handling Tenders, implementing projects and managing the staff are all in a hard day's work.

The operation team consists of a few hundred personnel of multi nationality, where I am the only Malaysian. Managing this, is like working as a politician, requires a sharp communication skill. My mission is to steer Sultan Telecom into becoming the No.1 telecommunication system integrator in the GCC.



Life in Kuwait

Life in Kuwait is quite interesting and enjoyable. As a Muslim family, we are appreciative of the Islamic environment here. We still miss Malaysia though, especially in the middle of scorching summer heat. There are only two distinct seasons here; winter which lasts from mid-November to February and summer which runs from June to mid-October. Spring and autumn are experienced as short intervals between the two seasons.



Boys' Day Out. ATV (buggy) ride in the desert. Winter 2006/07.

Malaysians in Kuwait

There are many communal activities/events organized by both, the Malaysian Association in Kuwait (MAK) and the Malaysian embassy. I was elected as MAK President a few times. The Malaysian community here is considered small (about 400 nationals), compared to other nationalities.



Forum on "al-Isra' wa al-Mikraj" at the Malaysian Embassy. Ustadz Muhammad(left), Hj Azeli (middle) and Ustadz Romizi (right). May 2014

Proud to be Malaysian

Malaysia is probably the most respected Muslim country by Arabs. Our rich multi-racial, multi-ethnic and multi religion society makes us a perfect example of an ideal community. We are truly Asian, indeed.



MAK Family Day. MAK President, Mr Azeli Azalan(left) with the former Malaysian Ambassador to Kuwait, H.E. Dato' Adnan Othman (middle), Green Island, Dec 2014



Hajj 2012

The sweetest memory for me was our Hajj trip in 2012. This was the first and the only time we were able to organize a Hajj tour. There were 20 of us who made the pilgrimage. The Hajj 'caravan' consisted of 175 pilgrims from Malaysia, Indonesia and the Indian sub-continent. After that year, Kuwait strictly limits their Hajj quota to only Kuwaiti citizens. Expatriates are now required to obtain their Hajj visas from their home countries.



We lived in close proximity for almost two weeks while we were in Makkah and Madinah. There was so much that we learnt from and about each other. Bonds of brotherhood were forged during those days. I can still remember those precious moments like it was just yesterday. The responsibilities and challenges of leading the 'Jemaah Haji' were very valuable lessons to me.

Hajj 2012 will always be in my heart forever.

Future Trips

It has always been my dream to arrange a group road-trip, from Kuwait to Syria. I pray that the civil wars will cease soon and peace be restored, for the sake of the Arab peoples and humanity in general.



EMBASSY OF MALAYSIA PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 2015

NO	HOLIDAY	DATE	DAY	MALAYSIA / KUWAIT
1	New Year's Day	1 January	Thursday	Malaysia / Kuwait
2	Maulidur Rasul	3 January	Saturday	Malaysia / Kuwait
3	Chinese New Year	19 February	Thursday	Malaysia
4	Kuwait National Day	25 February	Wednesday	Kuwait
5	Kuwait Liberation Day	26 February	Thursday	Kuwait
6	Labour Day	1 May	Friday	Malaysia / Kuwait
7	Wesak Day	3 May	Sunday	Malaysia
8	Isra' Mikraj	16 May	Saturday	Kuwait
9	Birthday of SPB YDP Agong	6 June	Saturday	Malaysia
10	Hari Raya Aidil Fitri	17 and 18 July	Friday and Saturday	Malaysia / Kuwait
11	National Day	31 August	Monday	Malaysia
12	Malaysia Day	16 September	Wednesday	Malaysia
13	Arafah Day	22 September	Tuesday	Kuwait
14	Hari Raya Aidil Adha	23 and 24 September	Wednesday and Thursday	Malaysia / Kuwait
15	Maal Hijrah	14 October	Wednesday	Malaysia / Kuwait
16	Deepavali	10 November	Tuesday	Malaysia
17	Maulidur Rasul	24 December	Thursday	Malaysia / Kuwait
18	Christmas*	25 December	Friday	Malaysia

Note:

1. Public holidays which fall on a Friday are not replaced by the next working day.
2. Public holidays which fall on a Saturday is carried forward to the next working day.
2. (*) Observed only