

# THE MILESTONES

Newsletter 1/2016

16 August 2016

## Official Newsletter of The High Commission of Malaysia Colombo, Sri Lanka

### Meet the new BOSS!

The High Commission of Malaysia received its man at the helm with the arrival of Mr. Wan Zaidi Wan Abdullah on 21 April 2016. He subsequently presented his credential on the following day and perhaps this might be the speediest ever for a diplomatic mission.

H.E. High Commissioner has been posted in four countries before Sri Lanka. He started in 1996 as a diplomat to Spain. After four years he was sent to Libya. Later he became the first Malaysian Consul General in Mumbai. In 2011 he became the Deputy High Commissioner for Malaysia in the UK. Sri Lanka was his first post as the High Commissioner.

One of the High Commissioner's favourite past times is fishing. It is something which he has developed a passion for since childhood. Hailing from Johor, an area which is known as a fishing village in Malaysia, H.E. Wan Zaidi has engaged in fishing with his friends after school and during the school holidays.

"Though I became a diplomat I could not let go of this habit. Whenever I get the opportunity and have some free time at hand, I pick up my fishing rod and venture to a nearby area like the lagoon, river or sea to engage in fishing. There are various forms of fishing. You have to go out to the sea in a boat for deep sea fishing. I have

caught many different types of fish like Tuna, Barramundi, Giant Tre-



vally and Sea Bass."

He loves the taste of the Grey Snapper, Tuna and Grouper best.

### Bon voyage H.E. Azmi Zainuddin

We bid farewell to H.E. Azmi Zainuddin on 14 February 2016 where he ended his tour of duty and retired from the public sector. It was a sad moment for all of us as H.E. Azmi finally left us after almost 5 years in Colombo.

H.E. Azmi is a career diplomat, having served in many countries prior to Sri Lanka. Under his able leadership, bilateral relations between Malaysia and Sri Lanka escalated to a higher level.



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### Special points of interest:

- ♦ Total Entry Visa Application as of 15 Aug 2016: 34,175
- ♦ Relocation of One Stop Centre of visa collection will be announced soon.
- ♦ Preparation of National Day 2016 celebration is underway.
- ♦ Malaysia Cup Golf Challenge will be held on 25 September 2016.

## Working Visit of the Deputy Premier

The Right Honorable Dato' Seri Dr. Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia made an official visit to Sri Lanka on 21 and 22 July 2016. This is the first visit of the Deputy Prime Minister since assuming the post of deputy prime minister in 28 July 2015. The visit aims to strengthen bilateral relations between Malaysia and Sri Lanka through various fields.



*Arrival of the Deputy Premier at the Bandaranaike Airport, Colombo*

In addition to bilateral issues, the visit also provided an opportunity for the Deputy Prime Minister to exchange views on issues of regional and international with senior leaders of Sri Lanka.

During the visit, the Deputy Prime Minister and his wife were accompanied by an official delegation comprising senior officials from the Foreign Ministry, Home

Ministry and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.



*With Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe.*

## Trade and Investment Mission (TIM 2016)

Minister of International Trade and Industry, Hon. Dato' Seri Mustapa Mohamed led a trade and investment mission to Sri Lanka from 4-7 May 2016 in a continuous effort to promote Malaysia as a profit and regional centre for businesses and investments.

Together with the Minister were officials from MATRADE, MIDA and private sector companies comprising mainly small-and-medium-sized enterprises seeking opportunities in the region, which have long-



standing business and cultural ties with Malaysia.

The programme during the mission includes individual meetings with Sri Lankan companies, business

seminars on investment opportunities in Malaysia, site visits, gatherings with Malaysian professionals and diaspora, as well as networking and business matching events.

Malaysia's trade with Sri Lanka amounted to US\$570 million last year with exports at US\$480 million and imports, US\$90 million.

## To know Malaysia is to love Malaysia...

As part of its efforts to raise awareness on Malaysia as a destination of choice, Tourism Malaysia embarked on a Sales Mission to Colombo, Sri Lanka on 1-3 March 2016. Leading the Malaysian delegation was Dato' Daljit Singh, who is the Indian Community Relations Advisor to the Minister of Tourism & Culture Malaysia and a member of the Tourism Malaysia Board of Directors. The

delegation also comprised of 57 representatives from 16 travel agents/tour operators, 10 hotels/resorts, six tourism products/attractions, two state tourism authorities, and four airlines.

The South Asian market is important to Malay-



*Dato' Daljit with accompanying officials*

sia, having contributed 1.3 million tourists in 2014 while Sri Lanka recorded 61,670 tourists. In 2015, Malaysia welcomed 51,337 Sri Lankans to the country.

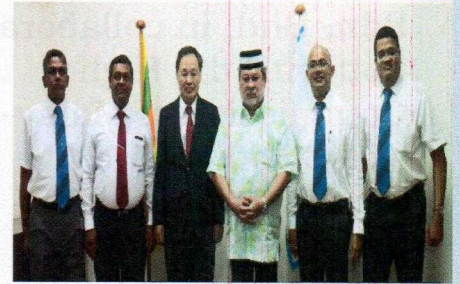
Global tourist arrivals were at 25.7 million with receipts up to RM 69.1 billion in 2015.

## Daulat Tuanku



His Royal Highness Sultan Ibrahim Ibn Almarhum Sultan Iskandar, The Sultan and Sovereign Ruler of the State and Territory of Johor Darul Ta'zim made a series of Royal Visit to Colombo in the first half of 2016.

### Sultan of Johor at the Taj



## PEMANDU CEO is in town!

Dato Seri Idris Jala attended the Sri Lanka Economic Summit in Colombo from 2 to 3 August 2016. He delivered an address at a panel session entitled the Future of State-owned Enterprises. Dato Seri Idris also had a meeting with several Sri Lankan Ministers including Finance Minister and Minister for Public Enterprises Development.

The two day summit, titled 'Focus. Act. Deliver', has attracted 460 top corporate and public sector senior executives to discuss how to un-

leash Sri Lanka's unrealised economic potential.



## From Silver State to the Pearl of Indian Ocean

Chief Minister of Perak YAB Dato Seri Diraja Dr. Zambry Abdul Kadir delivered his speech on Malaysia's human capital development at the inaugural of The Global Human Capital Summit 2016 in Colombo, held from 11 to 12 August.

He was the Guest of Honour at the Summit along with a Minister from the State of Telangana, India.

The summit was organised by the government of Sri Lanka in collaboration with the World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and International Labour Organisation (ILO).

The Sri Lanka Human Capital Summit is aimed to develop a national agenda for developing future human capital to support Sri Lanka's economic growth plans.



YAB Chief Minister of Perak with Hon. Prime Minister of Sri Lanka

## Colombo Bike Week 2016

Buzzword Events (M) Sdn. Bhd. in collaboration with the High Commission of Malaysia, Colombo and Motor Adventure Sports-Sri Lanka organized the Colombo Bike Week 2016 from 12 to 20 March. The event is a big-biking tour of Sri Lanka for 8 nights and 9 days with the big-bikers from Malaysia, visiting key places of tourists' interests and



*"Thunder Roar"*

using the most exciting biking roads for the riders.

The routes for the Ride were Waskaduwa, Hik-

kaduwa, Galle, Embilipitiya, Ella, Nuwara Eliya, Kandy, Habarana, Pollonnaruwa, Anuradhapura, Puttalam and Colombo.

The highlight of the week long ride was on the Final Day when the "Thunder Roar" arrived in Colombo on Saturday March 19 and mingled with Sri Lankan bikers at the Independence Avenue.

### High Commission of Malaysia

No. 33, Bagatalle Road  
Colombo 03  
Sri Lanka

Phone: +94 11 755 7711/2/3

Fax: +94 11 755 7714

E-mail:

[mwcolombo@kln.gov.my](mailto:mwcolombo@kln.gov.my)



**HIGH COMMISSION OF MALAYSIA**  
In Colombo, Sri Lanka

### HISTORY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT

The High Commission of Malaysia in Sri Lanka was opened in 1965. It was first located at Galle Face. For a brief period it was located at Alfred Place, Colombo 3 before it was moved to a rented property at 63A, Ward Place in Colombo 7 until 1986.

Upon expiry of the lease contract in 1987, the Office of High Commission was located at 87, Horton Place in Colombo 7. It was again moved in 1991 to another location at 47/1, Jawatta Road, Colombo 5.

Two years later on 1 June 1993, the Office of the High Commission was moved to 92, Kynsey Road, Colombo 5 until it was further moved on 1 December 2001 to the present location No. 33, Bagatalle Road, Colombo 3.

The first High Commissioner of Malaysia to Sri Lanka was HE Tengku Indra Petra who served from 1967 to 1972. The present High Commissioner of Malaysia HE Wan Zaidi Wan Abdullah is the 14<sup>th</sup> High Commissioner serving in Sri Lanka since 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016.



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