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A Momentous Day at IDFR



(From left) His Excellency Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the UN, Dato' Sri Anifah Aman, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia and Tan Sri Razali Ismail, Chairman of GMMF

22 March 2012 was indeed a momentous day at IDFR as it had the honour of hosting His Excellency Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations for his special address entitled, "Malaysia and the United Nations in a Changing World".

The day was made even more historic with the presence of His Royal Highness Raja Dr. Nazrin Shah Ibni Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah, the Crown Prince of Perak

Darul Ridzuan, marking His Royal Highness' first appearance as IDFR's Royal Patron. It was also a reunion of sorts for His Excellency Ban Ki-moon and His Royal Highness Raja Dr. Nazrin Shah as the audience was informed that they were once university mates at Harvard.

Also in attendance at the event was Dato' Sri Anifah Aman, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia. On top of that, the event saw the biggest

congregation of the diplomatic corps at IDFR as 78 ambassadors from foreign missions in Kuala Lumpur were present to listen to the address and to have a chance to meet His Excellency Ban Ki-moon in person.

The event proceeded with an opening address by Dato' Sri Anifah Aman, who warmly welcomed His Excellency Ban Ki-moon and other guests to the institute. In his remarks, the minister related the many aspects of global challenges and issues that the United Nations has to address and which have led to the change in the role of the UN; "from an institution which passively balanced ideological differences to an organisation that actively deals with challenges around the world". Dato' Sri Anifah Aman also emphasised that in Malaysia's endeavours towards supporting the United Nations, the foremost formula is moderation which according to him is our country's "recipe for unity in diversity". Tan Sri Razali Ismail, Chairman of the Global Movement of Moderates Foundation (GMMF) and IDFR Distinguished Fellow then took to the floor to introduce the distinguished speaker and to invite him to deliver the special address.

His Excellency Ban Ki-moon's special address is available on pages 4 - 7

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Tan Sri Hasmy Agam

Chairperson, Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM)

Q. How would you describe your years in the diplomatic service and what would be your advice to our young Malaysian diplomats?

A. My 42 years as a diplomat (including six years as a trainer at INTAN and IDFR), had been an interesting, enriching and fulfilling experience. I had my share of challenging postings – Saigon (now, Ho Chi Minh City) during the Vietnam War, Hanoi, after the war, and Tripoli for my first ambassadorial appointment, where I witnessed the 1986 US bombing of that city – and more comfortable but equally challenging postings – in Washington DC, London, Paris and New York (where I served twice for a total of nine years), and later as Ambassador-at-Large for NAM during Malaysia's chairmanship of the Movement.

My advice to our young diplomats: do your very best, with dedication and commitment, to serve King and Country, wherever you are posted to, enjoy what you do, in spite of the challenges, get to know the people of your host country, not just your diplomatic colleagues, and always project the best of our country in the most professional and engaging manner you can.

Q. If you can turn time back, would you still choose the diplomatic service as your career choice?

A. I would choose the same profession and start all over again, this time with better career planning in terms of acquisition of knowledge and skills, including foreign languages, for a higher level of achievement and contribution as a professional. I had, in fact, been given a choice by the Public Service Department (PSD) of opting out of Wisma Putra for the home sector after marriage when my wife, who was also a diplomat, opted to leave the diplomatic service as the Ministry then found it difficult to accommodate a husband-and-wife team serving at the same Embassy in Washington DC, but I decided to



Tan Sri Hasmy Agam presenting his Credentials to UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan in 1998

stay on, out of love for the diplomatic profession.

Q. Why did you choose to lead SUHAKAM when SUHAKAM is synonymous with controversial issues?

A. It was not really a “choice” – it was more out of a sense of duty. When I was approached, I accepted it with some hesitation, as a privilege and honour to serve the nation in a different capacity, in an area of work that was not unfamiliar to me, as I had dealt with human rights issues while serving at our Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York, where these issues featured prominently, including in the UN Security Council, where I had served twice as our country's Representative. Actually, I had accepted an earlier appointment as a SUHAKAM Commissioner upon my mandatory retirement but was not able to take it up due to an extension of my service in New York. So, when the offer came again ten years later, this time as Chairman of the Commission, I felt that was my new calling, a new purpose in life, and so, I accepted it after consulting my wife and two former Wisma Putra colleagues who had served as SUHAKAM Commissioners, namely, Dato' Choo Siew Kioh and Datuk Tunku Nazihah. Dato' Choo was particularly persuasive but he did

warn me that my life would “change”. Now I know what he meant.... it's simply impossible to please everyone.

Q. How do you define human rights diplomacy?

A. In the context of international relations, it is an increasingly important aspect of diplomacy – the process of promoting human rights by way of discourse and cooperation among nations through international processes and mechanisms. This process in modern history started in 1948 with the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) by the United Nations, which led to the establishment of the UN Commission of Human Rights in Geneva, which was later transformed into the current UN Council of Human Rights, of which Malaysia is a member, as it had been several times in the former Commission. As a member of the United Nations, Malaysia has a responsibility to uphold and promote the principles of the UDHR, as well as to ratify or accede to the nine international instruments on human rights, of which Malaysia has acceded to just three of them, namely the conventions pertaining to women, children and recently to people with disability – all with reservations. Malaysia has a lot of catching up to do, particularly



with the developed world, which we hope to join in 2020. The time is short. This is where Wisma Putra plays an important role, to nudge the Government in that direction. IDFR too can play its own role in creating increased awareness and understanding among our diplomats and other officials of the importance of human rights in the context of our diplomacy. While projecting a positive image of the country, it is also important for our diplomats to give objective feedback to the Government on how we are viewed by others, and to assist in the process of effecting change in areas that we are deficient in by way of providing inputs to policy-making.

Q. Is social media a good network for SUHAKAM as a human rights' watchdog?

A. Yes, the social media, such as Facebook, provides a useful medium for SUHAKAM to create awareness and a deeper understanding of human rights among Malaysians. The Commission has begun to make increased use of the social media to reach out to our citizens with the intention of creating an informal network of Friends of SUHAKAM as part of our increasing engagement with civil society, to complement our programme of active engagement with Government agencies in the promotion and protection of human rights in the country. The mainstream media should also play its role in promoting this awareness and appreciation of human rights among our people. We are quite dismayed that SUHAKAM's statements are rarely carried by the mainstream media simply because we are pro-human rights and are critical of a few government agencies – which is to be expected of us as a human rights “watchdog” established by the Government.

Q. Since Malaysia has been in hot water several times for supposedly breach of human rights, what would be the ideal paradigm shifts to be

undertaken by Malaysia in playing our role in promoting human rights issues and showcasing to the world that Malaysia practises and advocates human rights as per UN guidelines?

A. Given our less than favourable perception by the international community in this area, we should make strenuous efforts in creating a domestic environment that would make it possible for the country to improve its human rights performance and to accede, as quickly as possible, to the remaining six international human rights instruments so that by 2020 or even earlier, we would be on a par with the best performing countries in the world in terms of human rights. As I had mentioned in SUHAKAM's Annual Report for 2011, there should be a paradigm shift of moving away from the notion that the UDHR is a western agenda, as many in our country have tended to see it, and to use the UDHR as a template for our best efforts to move up the scale of our human rights achievements. In this regard, the recent decision by the Government to develop the nation's first National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP), that SUHAKAM has been advocating for almost a decade, is highly commendable and is a step in the right direction. The NHRAP should contain ambitious yet realistic or attainable goals within a specified time-frame of the Action Plan, so that incrementally we will be marching in step with the best of human rights respecting nations of the world.

Q. What is SUHAKAM's future direction as the nation is heading towards achieving Vision 2020?

A. As Malaysia moves towards attaining that Vision, SUHAKAM will carry out its mandate, as provided in the SUHAKAM Act, even more energetically so that when the nation takes its place in the ranks of the developed nations of the world, or even before that, it will have attained a commendable human rights

record, comparable with the others, that would make Malaysians proud of their country's achievements, not just in the economic and development fields, but also in the equally important realm of human rights. In making itself a more effective vehicle for the promotion of human rights, the Commission will explore ways of strengthening and empowering itself, in line with other National Human Rights Institutions – which we will propose for the Government's consideration.



Tan Sri Hasmy Agam was the former Executive Chairman of IDFR from February 2007 to July 2010. He was in the Malaysian Foreign

Service for close to 40 years, serving in various capacities at home and abroad which include among others, as Malaysia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UN), including as UN Security Council President. He was also Malaysia's Ambassador-At-Large for Non-Aligned Aligned (NAM) and former Ambassador to Libya and France. Tan Sri Hasmy also served as a Distinguished Fellow at Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia, Adjunct Professor at Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM), International Islamic University, Malaysia (IIUM) and University Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), and a Member of the UN Secretary – General's Board on Disarmament Matters. Tan Sri Hasmy was appointed as the Chairperson of the Malaysian Human Rights Commission (SUHAKAM) on 5 July 2010.

IDFR would like to express its appreciation to Tan Sri Hasmy Agam, the Chairperson of the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM), for agreeing to be featured in the Diplomatic Voice.

Malaysia and the United Nations in a Changing World



Special Address by His Excellency Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations at IDFR on 22 March 2012.

Selamat pagi.

I am pleased to be here in the house of your first Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman, *Bapa Kemerdekaan*, *Bapa Malaysia*.

I hope you can see my lapel pin. It says 'number 1' My staff wondered what it was when they saw it. After all, they already know I am number one! So I explained that it stands for "*satu Malaysia*" – "one Malaysia".

This is such a fundamental, important concept. Yours is a diverse, multi-ethnic, multi-religious nation. You have six languages and six major religions. But you are pulling together in common cause. Everyone celebrates everyone else's religious festivals. This habit of living harmoniously – of having a sound social compact – surely underpins Malaysia's success.

This is a core value of the United Nations, too. That is why we work so hard to promote and defend the social compact – and to repair it in places where it has broken down.

Places such as Syria. One year ago, people in Syria began to call for change - for freedom and dignity.

Instead of reform, they were met with brutal repression.

Now, instead of a peaceful transition, the country faces the spectre of sectarian strife.

The Joint Special Envoy of the United Nations and the League of Arab States, Mr. Kofi Annan, is working hard to prevent this, and to help Syrians find a path towards a peaceful, pluralist, democratic society.

In this context, we very much welcome the adoption yesterday by the Security Council of a Presidential statement supporting Mr. Annan's mission.

In clear and unmistakable terms, the Security Council called for an immediate end to all violence and human rights violations. It demanded secure humanitarian access and a comprehensive political dialogue between the government and the whole spectrum of the Syrian opposition.

As the situation on the ground continues to deteriorate, it is more urgent than ever to find a solution. I hope that this strong and united action by the Council will mark a turning point in the international community's response to the crisis.

Civil strife of the sort we are seeing in Syria can destroy whole societies. Pitting communities, ethnic and religious groups against each other can be dangerous in the extreme.

Yet too often, such divisions are manipulated for political narrow purposes - not only in Syria but in many corners of our world.

Even the most stable democracies suffer horrific acts fuelled by extremism and bigotry.

The United Nations is dedicated to countering these forces of hatred.

We speak out against intolerance.

We stand for justice, dignity and mutual understanding.

I know Malaysia shares these principles. So, I commend your emphasis on "One Malaysia", "*satu Malaysia*". Malaysia is also making significant efforts to smooth tensions between Muslim majority countries and the West through your Global Movement of Moderates.

As the movement gains momentum, I encourage you to reach out and engage the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations.

Your objectives intersect significantly with the Alliance's objectives.

We can be good partners in the struggle against extremism and intolerance.

Malaysia and the United Nations are close in many other ways as well.

You are a friend to the United Nations.

You support our principles and contribute to our work.

Your peacekeepers have participated in some 25 UN peacekeeping operations in more than 20 countries.

I would like to talk with you today about how Malaysia can contribute even more.

Malaysia has an important role to play in advancing the Action Agenda I have set out for the next five years.

I have identified five imperatives... five generational opportunities to deliver results for the world's people.

Sustainable development.

Preventing conflicts and disasters, human rights abuses and development setbacks.

Building a safer and more secure world, including by standing strong

on fundamental principles of democracy and human rights.

Supporting nations in transition.

Working for women and young people.

All have resonance here in Malaysia and in the region.

Last November's Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between the United Nations and ASEAN, introduces new avenues of cooperation to address these imperatives.

First, sustainable development. Malaysia has made great strides in reducing poverty. You are a model in achieving the Millennium Development Goals ahead of the target date.

Your experiences can help countries throughout the global South, and I

urge Malaysia to look at how it can increase South-South cooperation.

Europe and the United States may be struggling, but in East and South Asia, in Latin America, even in Africa, many economies are growing.

Millions of people have been lifted from poverty. With such success comes responsibility.

This is your chance to assume leadership.

We are less than 100 days from the UN Conference on Sustainable Development. Rio+20 is our opportunity to put the world on a more sustainable path: economically, socially, and environmentally. To eradicate poverty and reduce inequality. To make growth inclusive while combating climate change and respecting planetary boundaries.

Your country is rich in natural resources that are important not just

to your own sustainable development but to the world.

You face urgent sustainable development challenges at home, from protecting the forests of Sarawak and Sabah to ensuring smart growth in Kuala Lumpur.

Raising standards of living for this generation has little value if the price must be paid by the next.

At Rio+20 let us define a new set of sustainable development goals.

Malaysia's engagement in the Rio+20 process is crucial.

My second priority is prevention.

It is well known that prevention is better – and cheaper – than cure.

We see that clearly with disasters. Two of the strongest earthquakes of modern history have struck the Asia-Pacific region in the past eight years.





After the 2004 tsunami, and again since the disaster at the Fukushima nuclear plant, we are strengthening early warning, preparedness and resilience.

Just days from now I will attend the Nuclear Security Summit in Seoul, which will focus on nuclear terrorism and the risk of environmental contamination from disasters.

My prevention agenda also highlights early action on conflict such as by mapping, linking, collecting and integrating information from across the international system.

It also emphasizes supporting national dialogue, mediation and rapid response.

We will also adopt a preventive approach to human rights and support efforts to extend the reach of the International Criminal Court.

The past year has seen major advances in upholding the emerging doctrine of the responsibility to protect. But we must do even more.

I am pleased that the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia

Pacific has produced a consensus report on the responsibility to protect.

Such consensus can help prevent the kind of atrocities we saw more than three decades ago in Cambodia.

The killing fields took four to five times as many lives as the two recent tsunamis combined.

This brings me to my third imperative: building a safer and more secure world, including by standing strong on fundamental principles of democracy and human rights.

The region's success cannot be cause for complacency. Malaysia and its neighbours face common challenges related to human rights.

These include protecting the rights of migrants—particularly undocumented migrants.

I commend the Government for the goodwill that they have shown towards refugees from the region and beyond for many years.

It would be timely to build on this goodwill by ratifying the UN Refugee Convention and its Optional Protocol. Other human rights issues include

tackling human trafficking; ensuring freedom of expression and religion; and combating discrimination against people with disabilities.

I welcome the historic establishment in Malaysia of the bipartisan Parliamentary Select Committee on electoral reform.

I hope the final report and recommendations of the Committee will take into account all legitimate concerns expressed by relevant stakeholders.

I sincerely hope the electoral reform process will lead to a truly transparent and credible system, to the satisfaction of all Malaysians.

The United Nations stands ready to assist the Government and people of Malaysia in this endeavour.

I also welcome the repeal of Malaysia's Internal Security Act.

I hope the Government will ensure that the replacement laws will be in full compliance with international human rights standards. And I encourage the Government, as a Member of the UN Human Rights Council, to sign all the core UN human rights conventions.

I also urge the early drafting and implementation of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration.

I place great importance on the development of an effective ASEAN human rights system.

Regional mechanisms of this kind in other parts of the world have helped to complement national and international human rights mechanisms. They have closed gaps in protection and helped to foster a regional human rights culture.

The United Nations will continue to support ASEAN in this endeavour. The fourth item on the action agenda is supporting nations in transition.

These countries are home to one and a half billion people. All are off-track to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). All would benefit from Malaysia's experience and expertise to help promote development and consolidate freedoms and opportunity.

I commend Malaysia's pledge of \$1 million to the Organization of the Islamic Conference Trust Fund on Somalia that you announced at last year's General Assembly general debate.

That expression of solidarity comes at a crucial time for that country.

Now is the time to scale up our efforts for all countries in transition, especially in areas where the UN's unique services are in demand - peacebuilding...ruleoflaw...electoral assistance... dispute resolution... anti-corruption...constitution-making and power-sharing arrangements... and democratic practices.

Across my action agenda, one essential element stands out: the need to empower women and young people.

In too many countries, in too many communities, in too many households, women remain second-class citizens.

We will deepen the UN campaign to end violence and enhance support for countries to adopt legislation that criminalizes violence against women.

We will do even more to promote women's political participation worldwide, including in peacebuilding.

We will encourage countries to adopt measures that guarantee women's equal access to political leadership... that promote women's engagement in elections... and that build the capacity of women to be effective leaders. And we will develop a programme for ensuring the full participation of women in social and economic recovery, so it does not pass them by.

For young people, we will develop an action plan across the full range of UN programmes, including employment... entrepreneurship... political participation... human rights... education and reproductive health.

Today we have the largest generation of young people the world has ever known. We will do all we can to meet their needs for a greater voice in economic and political life.

I will count on Malaysia to show leadership in all these areas.

Malaysia has much to contribute in each area of our work.

Your diverse, multi-ethnic, multi-religious society has developed into a stable middle income nation.

You have weathered financial shocks, including the great economic crisis of the late 1990s, and you continue to enjoy high economic growth.

These are tremendous foundations to build on. In today's rapidly changing world, the United Nations will continue to depend on Malaysia, for sustainable development... preventing conflicts and disasters... building a safer and more secure world... supporting nations in transition... and working for women and young people.

Terima kasih. Thank you.



Welcoming Remarks by Dato' Sri Anifah Aman Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia on 22 March 2012



Welcoming remarks in conjunction with the Special Address by His Excellency Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations at IDFR.

I am pleased to welcome H.E. Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and all of you to the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations. An event like this creates invaluable opportunity for positive engagement on various issues of interest.

The United Nations was established on 24 October 1945 with these following purposes:

“To maintain international peace and security;
To develop friendly relations among nations;
To achieve international co-operation in solving international problems.”

The UN epitomizes cooperation of a grouping of diverse states in the form of multilateral diplomacy. This reminds me of what Franklin Roosevelt said in his Fourth Inaugural Address in early 1945: “We have learned that we cannot live

alone, at peace; that our well-being is dependent on the well-being of other nations, far away”. No doubt there is growing interdependency in an increasingly interconnected world for one another; people to people, state to state. This was one of the key factors which led Malaysia to join the UN in 1957, and we will continue to strongly support the UN and advocate for the improvement of global governance and the strengthening of multilateral diplomacy to meet challenges of this day and age.

The end of the Cold War resulted in drastic changes around the world. There was new emphasis on the rule of law, the establishment of democratic institutions, and concern for human rights and humanitarian needs. Globalisation has triggered a new set of challenges; today we are faced with widespread poverty, famine, natural catastrophe, destruction to the environment, economic crisis, violation of human rights and humanitarian crisis. We have witnessed an era of change and with that also, change in the role of the UN from an institution that passively balanced ideological differences to an organisation that

actively deals with challenges around the world.

The complexity of challenges is also heightened by the multiplicity of international players comprising states, international organisations, non-governmental organisation, private sector and civil society. To keep up with challenges and changes, and to continue to be relevant, the UN must pursue a more fitting role to effectively coordinate the coalition of interest of its member states and the world at large.

While war and peace remain the central issue in the UN, other issues such as the disparity between the worlds' rich and poor, environmental issues, economic issues, humanitarian crisis, violation of human rights, as we are aware, are no less significant and are correlated to international peace and security. This includes the long-standing Middle East conflict, and the international community must ensure the full restoration of Palestinian's inalienable right to self-rule. Malaysia fully supports the legitimate right of the Palestinian people for an independent State of Palestine, based on the two-state solution and the 1967 borders. We call upon the UN and member states to expedite the process of Palestine's full membership to the UN which has been delayed since last September.

Malaysia has been fortunate to have had the opportunity to contribute to the work of the Security Council before and we hope to do the same in the future as we are vying for a non-permanent seat in the Council for the term 2015-2016. Our presence and participation reinforce our conviction that reforms are important to the Council's continuing legitimacy.

The debate on UN reform, particularly the reform of the Security Council continues without results. While we can generally agree that the Security Council needs to be reformed, we disagree on how. This issue is not only

contentious but has created a divide. Malaysia would like to see change in the Security Council; change in terms of expansion of Permanent Members and Non-Permanent Members for a fairer representation of the growing UN member states, and the exercise of veto power with higher accountability. And more change with the review of its working methods, with greater transparency in mind.

One important area where change is notable is in UN peacekeeping. The UN and its member states have consistently strived to improve peacekeeping operations and it has adapted well to best address emerging threats to international peace and security. Malaysia's peacekeeping initiative has grown with these developments since we participated in the UN peacekeeping mission in Congo

in 1960. The establishment of the Malaysian Peacekeeping Training Centre (MPTC), a centre of excellence that provides training and capacity-building for international peacekeepers in 1996 was another positive step. To date, the centre has cooperation programmes with the UN and countries such as Australia, Japan, and the United States. We are confident that with sixteen years of tradition of excellence, MPTC will evolve into a regional centre that focuses more on multidimensional peacekeeping for military, police and civilian personnel to meet the current challenges of peacekeeping.

Like the world, Malaysia is embracing an era of change. These changes are important to realise our vision and aspirations of becoming a high income developed nation by 2020. In tandem with these changes, our international outlook on issues is

also being transformed. Our foreign policy is principled, pragmatic and progressive.

The UN paves the middle path for dialogue, positive engagement and the settlement of conflicts and disputes through peaceful means. It is our vision to see moderation continuously practiced by the UN and its member states in finding lasting solutions to problems. While we support collective responsibility on issues of mutual concern, we must avoid being extreme in our measures.

We Malaysians take pride in our diversity and how moderation has shaped acceptance, mutual respect and understanding in our multi-ethnic, multi-religion and multi-cultured society. Our diversity and how it is managed provide unique advantages and strengths which



offer credibility to the promotion of moderation for peaceful coexistence.

The integration of our society is only possible through dialogue, compromise, understanding, acceptance and mutual respect, all of which are aspects of moderation. We see the UN as no different; the UN represents unparalleled diversity of the international community. Our recipe for unity in diversity – moderation, is something we would like to share with the world.

It is not easy to lead and equally hard is to follow. We all may recall H.E. Ban Ki-moon's words not too long ago, "My tenure will be marked by ceaseless efforts to build bridges and close divides. Leadership of harmony not division, by division not instruction, has served me well so far. I intend to stay the course as Secretary-General."

Malaysia has always looked up to the UN as the beacon of hope for global peace, security, progress

and prosperity. As we face new challenges, Malaysia and the UN will continue to cooperate and stand united to meet these challenges.

On that note, thank you.

Global Movement of Moderates Conference



Speech by Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Haji Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur on 17 January 2012.

I am delighted to join all of you today at the very first conference of the Global Movement of the Moderates – I know many of you have travelled thousands of miles to be here, and I want to thank you for your dedication and commitment to our common cause. We have a saying in Malaysia,

"tak kenal maka tak cinta", which means "we can't love what we don't know" – and it is my sincere hope that over the next few days we will come to both know and love each other better, and to put that mutual empathy and understanding into the service of facing down extremism in all its forms.

Here in Malaysia, moderation has always been our chosen path. It is a testament to how we gained our independence from the British back in 1957; how we restored our relations with Indonesia in 1965; and how we helped build ASEAN in 1967, recovered from the tragic events of May 1969, engaged with China in 1972, and forged the ground-breaking ASEAN security and economic communities in 1993 and 2009. Each was a significant moment for our country, and all were gained through reasoned discussion and debate.

But over and above Malaysia's own achievements, moderation is the *fitrah*, or essence, of humanity's greatest heights; the solid bedrock on which all of the world's civilisations have been built – for without it, we would long ago have succumbed to epicurean pleasures and delights! Yet moderation stands not just in the

defence of willpower, discipline and restraint but of acceptance, freedom, tolerance, compassion, justice and peace.

Being moderate is not about being weak, about appeasement or about institutionalising mediocrity. And it is not about doing half-heartedly those things that are worthy of our fullest measure of devotion. Far from being an ideology of enfeeblement, as some would have us believe, moderation empowers us to go forward and to leave a mark for good – attending to the needs, frustrations and anxieties of others at the same time as attending to our own.

In the words of Robert F. Kennedy, "it is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centres of energy and daring, those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."

That, ladies and gentlemen, is the current we are here to build today – and let us make no mistake, we come

together at a particularly troubled juncture in our global history. New faces of war, the global financial crisis and natural disasters on a previously unseen scale present us with challenges the like of which we have never had to face before. But face them we must, and the way we choose to deal with these changes will have a crucial bearing on the future of our shared civilisation.

The scale and speed of the events that unfolded across the Middle East and North Africa in 2011 at times felt almost overwhelming, but as the chaos and confusion gives way to calm the whole world is united in the hope that – rather than falling victim to an extremism and intolerance that closes in to fill the void – these countries and peoples can forge a peaceful, democratic moderation that will grant them more freedom of expression, not less.

Elsewhere, Nigeria has recently borne witness to deadly clashes between its Christian and Muslim communities. But the Nigerian government has made it quite clear that such behaviour will not stand and that there will be consequences for those who seek to hijack faith for violent ends. Because the real divide is not between Muslims and non-Muslims, or between the developed and developing worlds, it is between moderates and extremists.

So we have, each one of us, a choice to make: the choice between animosity and suspicion on the one hand and a sustained attempt to apprehend each other's world views on the other. Certainly, we should never assume that the oceans and gulfs that divide us grant us immunity to the conflicts of others. Tensions in Africa or harsh words uttered in the Americas can have consequences not only for those who live there but for us all. In today's world of the information superhighway such conflicts travel quickly – and no one has a monopoly on truth.

Of course – much as it would be nice to claim the credit – calls such as my own for a Global Movement of the Moderates are nothing new. Moderation is an age-old value, and one that runs right to the heart of the great religions. In Islam, the Prophet Muhammad counsels that “moderation is the best of actions”; in Christianity, the Bible says “let your moderation be known unto all men”; and in Judaism, the Torah teaches that moderation in all things is a “way of life” in the truest sense of Jewish custom.

But if moderation has long had a home within the world religions, then the reverse is also true: extremism has never been welcome inside our mosques, churches, synagogues and temples. Perpetuating hatred is, by its very nature, a lonely pursuit, flying in the face of widely held morality – and it is this dangerously untethered animus, coupled with a head-in-the-sand refusal to acknowledge the views and the values of others, that makes extremism such a potent threat.

And yet, time and again the side of righteousness has triumphed. History has been made not by those who espoused extremism but by those who, without surrendering their beliefs, stayed true to the path of moderation. We are all familiar with the extraordinary strength of will and leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela and Aung San Suu Kyi, but you don't have to be a world leader to be an inspiration. Moderates can make a difference wherever they make a stand – and it is time for the massed ranks of the moderates everywhere to stand up and to say to the extremists with a single breath a firm, resounding “no”.

Because one thing is clear: we cannot rid the world of extreme views by force. Violence begets violence – so we can best foster tolerance and understanding not by silencing the voice of hatred but by making the voice of reason louder. Persuasion,

negotiation and co-operation: these must be our weapons in the face of enmity and malice.

The range of speakers and delegates here today is diverse in every sense, embracing experts and thought leaders from all continents and walks of life. This can, I think, mean just one thing: that extremism has at some point affected every country, every profession and everyone. No-one is immune, nowhere is out of bounds and nothing is off limits – for the simple reason that extremists, with their totalising world views, are reluctant to leave any institution, sacred or secular, untouched.

Extremists, we know, are driven by orthodoxies – a set of messianic ideals characterised by crass simplifications, misrepresentations and outright lies. Rather than celebrating the sanctity of life, as is required by all religions, extremists emphasise the glory of the afterlife. Rather than seeking out and embracing difference they espouse ignorance, intolerance and introspection. And rather than embracing change they fear it and all who drive it, turning their backs on progress and seeking refuge in an idealised world that always stays the same.

The essence, and perhaps the attraction, of extremism is its apparent simplicity – so it falls to movements and gatherings like this one to interrogate these easy truisms with subtlety, intelligence and vigour.

Talk of extremism and extremist acts conjures up terrible images of murder, mayhem and human suffering, but extremism isn't always violent – and I believe we literalise it at our peril. Take, for example, one of the most extreme yet ostensibly non-violent events in recent history: the global financial crisis.

Compared to the shockingly violent images that were beamed around the world in the wake of 9/11 – scenes

of devastation on an epic scale that scarred a generation and seared the collective conscience of the world – the pictures taken outside Lehman Brothers on another September morning some years later were much more ordinary, familiar even. A young woman, tense and anxious, carries her belongings out of the firm's headquarters in a box. A disgraced executive, walking quickly, climbs into his luxury car and speeds away.

Nothing too unusual or untoward – and yet, without a single bullet fired, the extremes and excesses of Wall Street would in a matter of days take the world as we knew it to the brink.

Fast forward four years and it is clear there is no end in sight. The eurozone is still in crisis. Countless millions have lost their jobs, their homes and their security. And in addition to the human cost, some US\$14 trillion has so far been spent on the rescue plan – ten times the cost of the wars in Afghanistan and in Iraq combined.

So if my call for moderation is idealistic, it is hard-headedly realistic too. Many great Islamic scholars have been concerned with how Islam as a religious, cultural, political, ethical and economic worldview can help solve some of the biggest challenges we face today, and these are also questions that interest me – how moderation can solve not only the problem of violent extremism but can guide us through this global economic crisis.

Thomas Jefferson once said that, “the selfish spirit of commerce knows no country, and feels no passion of principle but that of gain.” It is a sentiment that has been revisited many times in the years and months since Lehman's fell.

No less a figure than the Pope has blamed the global financial crisis on “the lack of a solid ethical foundation for economic activity.” Britain's Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks has written of the need for employers, bankers and

shareholders to be “guided, even if no-one is watching, by a sense of what is responsible and right.” And for Muslims like myself, the structures and principles of Islamic finance have long put public good ahead of individual gain.

So how do we create a truly moderate global economy that works in the interests of the many not the few? How can we devise a system that delivers fairness for “the 99 per cent”, not just those at the top? Quite simply, we can no longer allow the workings of the markets to be value-free or value-neutral. Markets, we all know, are the only route to rising global prosperity and sustained, stable growth – but we must do away with the unjust, unfair outcomes they can produce when left unchecked, and with the kinds of reckless economic practices that brought our global financial system to its knees.

Massive overleveraging. Mind-boggling credit default swaps. Subprime lending. Like the monstrous creation of some crazy scientist, these new and poorly understood financial practices rampaged out of Wall Street and left the devastated lives of millions in their wake.

But what of the men and women, the bankers and the traders, who went about their work with such abandon and with so little thought for anything beyond their own enrichment? A line of mug shots of the culprits would look very different to the “rogues gallery” of extremists we have grown accustomed to in recent years – sharp-suited, desk bound and clean shaven rather than dark skinned, bearded and combat-trained.

This flies in the face of everything we have been told about extremism – but it also raises the important question: what do extremists look like? How can we come to know them? The answer, of course, is that extremists, like extremism itself, take many forms – and we can only know them by their acts.

It is something I believe the world would do well to remember, for too often in recent times we have seen extremism and Islam discussed in the same breath. In the aftermath of 9/11, for example, Southeast Asia came to be regarded as a ‘second front’ simply because it had the highest number of Muslims in the world. And yet terrorism has never gained the same grip here that it has secured in other parts of the world.

And when a great evil visited Norway last year, so-called experts filled the airwaves to assert that the attack bore all the hallmarks of Muslim extremists. We swiftly discovered that the awful truth was very different, yet around the world politicians, journalists and commentators remain committed to the idea that terrorism and Islam are two sides of the same coin.

After Timothy McVeigh brought mass slaughter to the streets of Oklahoma City, nobody suggested that all Christians were somehow responsible. To do so would rightly have been seen as absurd, yet that is the situation the world's 1.3 billion Muslims find themselves in today.

How did this happen? How did acts of extremism by a tiny minority of Muslims come to be seen as a true reflection of the whole of the Islamic faith – and to overshadow the extremism that is being perpetrated right across the world, day in day out, by people of all faiths and none? Such pernicious views cannot be left unchallenged – and it is not enough to say, as many have done, that the solution to extremism is simply for more Muslims to speak up and speak out. We need to hear from moderates of all religions in all countries and from all walks of life – and when we do, the prize of peace is there for all to see.

Malaysia has long been synonymous not with extremism but with moderation, tolerance, inclusivity and even acceptance. In a

predominantly Muslim country with substantial communities of Hindus, Buddhists, Christians, Taoists and Sikhs, we know well the “dignity of difference”. We have many ethnic groups, many religions, but we continually strive to be a harmonious and truly united nation predicated on the values of moderation and the spirit of 1Malaysia.

We know that we are best and we are strongest when we actively embrace our differences rather than just putting up with them – and it is in that spirit that we come together at the first ever meeting of the Global Movement of the Moderates. But a truly global movement cannot be imposed from above – so we must awaken in all our countries and communities the triumph of truth over ignorance, falsehood and fear.

To advance our common cause, I am pleased to announce today the formation here in Malaysia of an Institute of Wasatiyyah, operating as part of the Prime Minister’s Office, to further the pursuit of moderation and balance in all its aspects – respect for democracy, the rule of law, education, human dignity and social justice. In the words of the great scholar Al-Imam Ibnul Qayyim, *wasatiyyah* – moderation or ‘balance’ – “neither being too lenient nor too extreme is like an oasis between two mountains”, and to encourage many more such scholars in the future we will also be creating an academic Chair of *Wasatiyyah*, operating under Universiti Malaya, with the postholder to be announced in due course.

To spearhead this work at an international level, I am delighted to announce the launch of a new Global Movement of the Moderates Foundation as a centre of first resort for the consolidation and dissemination of information and campaign materials to all those who want to join the fight against extremism, governmental and non-governmental bodies alike. Certainly it is essential that, rather than being

an exclusive initiative by Malaysia, the GMM complements other initiatives for global dialogue and co-operation such as the United Nations Alliance of Civilisations.

It will not be a campaign for the faint hearted, but we cannot allow this moment to be overtaken by extremists, with those who shout loudest gaining the most. In the words of that great advocate for peace, Mahatma Gandhi, “an eye for an eye makes the whole world blind” – so it is for moderates everywhere to stand firm and stand proud, to dissipate the pull of the extremes and to deny those at the margins a foothold on the middle ground, ensuring that frustrations, wherever they are felt, are heeded and that voices, wherever they speak out, are heard.

Certainly, I hope this inaugural conference will provide an opportunity for us to brainstorm, debate and explore some of the practical challenges ahead – questions like: What does it take for a set of ideas and values to become a truly global movement? How can we inject moderation into our foreign policy decisions and domestic economic measures? And what can we learn from each other in the promotion of understanding, tolerance and peace?

Maybe I am naïve to hope for a world without terror, intolerance and all of the hatreds and miseries that man inflicts on man – but the price of failure if we dream too small is simply too high to pay. So let us dare to dream big, let us dare to imagine what was once thought unimaginable, and yes, let us dare to answer the clarion call to action. Oppression and tyranny can only win out if good men and women stand idly by, unwilling to turn rhetoric into action and opinions into deeds.

So let us here, today, together, commit ourselves to change and begin the task of building a new

coalition of the moderates for our times – and may I thank you once again for coming and wish you well in your discussions over the next few days. There has never been a more important conversation, and it is one that we must undertake with temperance, fortitude and courage.





Special Address by His Excellency Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations





Special Address by His Excellency Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations



Forum: Is Nuclear Energy an Option for Malaysia?





Roundtable Discussion by H.E. Ihor V. Humennyi, Ambassador Extraordinary Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to Malaysia



The Director General's Working Visit to the Republic of Uzbekistan





IDFR New Year Address and Barbecue Luncheon





Farewell Moments



Training Courses





Training Courses



Language Courses



Royal Audience

Duli Yang Teramat Mulia (DYTM) Tuanku Raja Dr. Nazrin Shah ibni Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah, the Crown Prince of the state of Perak Darul Ridzuan granted an audience to Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, Director General of IDFR on 26 January 2012 at Istana Changkat, Kuala Lumpur.

During the audience, Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari presented the Diplomatic Voice Volume 3 2011 which contained the announcement of His Royal Highness as the Royal Patron of IDFR. Among other things that His Royal Highness expressed was his consent to grace IDFR campus to conduct an intellectual discourse with the Master candidates as well as the Diploma in Diplomacy participants who are currently undergoing their programmes. His Royal Highness also expressed his consent to tour the IDFR campus and its facilities.

His Royal Highness holds a B.A. (Hons.) degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from Oxford University; a Master in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government and a Ph.D in Political Economy and Government, both from Harvard University. His Royal Highness was conferred an honorary Master of



Business Administration by the Cranfield Institute of Technology, United Kingdom in 1993, an honorary Doctor of Economics by Soka University, Japan in 1999 and an honorary membership of Magdalene College, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom in 2005.

His Royal Highness has keen interests in the areas of economic and political

development in Southeast Asia, economic growth in developing countries and economic history. He has written articles and spoken on a wide range of issues including constitutional monarchy, nation building, Islam, Islamic finance, ethno-religious relations, education and socio-economic development.

Roundtable Discussion by H.E. Ihor V. Humennyi, Ambassador Extraordinary Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to Malaysia

The Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) hosted a roundtable discussion entitled, "The Strengthening of Bilateral Relationship between Ukraine and Malaysia as part of the Foreign Policy of Ukraine in South East-Asia", presented by H.E. Ihor V. Humennyi, Ambassador Extraordinary Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to Malaysia on 27 March 2012.

Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, the Director General of IDFR in his welcoming remarks, spoke about the warm and friendly bilateral relations between Malaysia and Ukraine. He

also highlighted the fact that it was the first time that IDFR has hosted a roundtable discussion where many of the participants are university students.

H.E. Ihor V. Humennyi gave an overview of Ukraine's relationship with the countries of the South-East Asia region. He highlighted the fact that Ukraine is Malaysia's largest trading partner after Russia among the countries in Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). He also stressed on the opportunities for greater economic cooperation between Malaysia

and Ukraine particularly in the energy sector, aviation, maritime, education and in tourism. During the question and answer session, the esteemed speaker spoke about the steps being taken by Ukraine for its integration with the European Union and its relationship with its neighbours in the East European region.

The participants who attended the roundtable included students and lecturers from a number of local universities, the Master students of IDFR and officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia.

IDFR New Year Address and Barbecue Luncheon



In ushering the New Year 2012, the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) celebrated the auspicious occasion with a New Year address by Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, Director General of IDFR on 12 January 2012 to inspire a prime start for another promising twelve upcoming months. This was followed by a barbecue luncheon concocted by IDFR's many talented 'chefs' highlighting Middle Eastern recipe of Nasi Arab and sumptuous selection of poultry and seafood.

Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari expressed his appreciation and gratitude to all staff for the continued commitment in bringing IDFR to what it is today and for elevating IDFR's name which is now becoming more visible in the international arena for offering training and research in the fields of diplomacy and international relations. The Director General also remarked on all the training programmes, language classes as well as numerous public lectures and discourses throughout 2011 and congratulated everyone for the coordinated efforts and arduous work in realising all the projects and events.

He also encouraged all officers and staff to fully utilise CLIK, the latest system developed by IDFR which would form a comprehensive flow of communication and monitoring of portfolios of staff as well as for speedy feedback and reporting to the management. CLIK is seen as a breakthrough for IDFR in order to connect and stay at par with the rest of the world. He concluded his address by emphasising on the core

values of IDFR, 'A.Z.A.N' (Adherence, Zeal, Ability and Nobleness) and reminding all to apply the principle, "hands on, minds on, hearts on".

The highlight of the event was the presentation of a scroll containing the 2012 New Year Message and 2012 calendar to each IDFR staff.

The delectable Barbecue feast ended the event with everyone beaming and leaving the hall with renewed, aspired spirit and determination to ensure IDFR climbs a higher ladder in the international relations and foreign affairs' training world.



Forum: Is Nuclear Energy an Option for Malaysia?



A forum, aimed at informing the public on issues pertaining to the development of nuclear energy, in particular as an option for Malaysia, was held at IDFR on 16 February 2012. Entitled, "Is Nuclear Energy an Option for Malaysia?", the forum was organised by the United Nations Association Malaysia (UNAM), in collaboration with the Malaysian Physicians for Social Responsibility and IDFR.

The forum commenced with a Welcoming Address by Tengku Tan Sri Dato' Seri Ahmad Rithauddeen Tengku Ismail, President of UNAM, followed by Session 1 which was moderated by Datuk Khor Eng Hee, Governing Council Member of UNAM who was also Chairman of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) from 1977 to 1978. The guest speakers for that session were Dato' Sri Che Khalib Mohamad Noh, President/CEO of Tenaga Nasional Berhad; Dr. Mohd Zamzam Jaafar, CEO, Malaysia Nuclear Power Corporation; and Dr. Praful Bidwai, a leading researcher

in social sciences, author, political analyst and journalist from India.

Session 2 of the forum convened in the afternoon and was moderated by Tan Sri Ahmad Fuzi Abdul Razak, Secretary General, World

Islamic Economic Forum. The guest speakers were Mr. Kamal Malhotra, United Nations Resident Coordinator and United Nations Development Programme Resident Representative; Associate Professor Mark Diesendorf, Institute of Environmental Studies, University of New South Wales; and Dr. Feroz Kabir Kazi, Associate Professor, University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus.

The question and answer slots which followed each session were really enlightening, with some thought-provoking questions being posed by members of the audience.

The forum concluded with an extensive summation by Dato' Dr. Ronald McCoy, President of the Malaysian Physicians for Social Responsibility and a Closing Remarks by Tan Sri Razali Ismail, Deputy President of UNAM and former Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations, and was attended by more than 250 participants.

The presentation slides by the guest speakers can be accessed at www.idfr.gov.my



International Conference on Global Movement of Moderates: In Pursuit of an Enduring and Just Peace

by Nadhirah Mohd Zanudin

The International Conference on Global Movement of Moderates: In Pursuit of an Enduring and Just Peace was held from 17 to 19 January 2012 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, Malaysia. The conference attended by more than 500 participants including 50 speakers and academicians, prominent figures, as well as delegates from around the world served as a learning platform for everyone to understand from one another and to foster greater understanding during this critical time in which the world is going through constant state of dispute and misinterpretation.

The need to strike a balance through the establishment of enlightening dialogues, and exchanging of ideas is imperative in breeding a ground of peaceful co-existence thus through the commendable brainchild of the honorable Prime Minister of Malaysia, and with the cooperation from the International Islamic University Malaysia, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia, the Razak School of Government and the Malaysian National Institute of Translation, this conference provided the suitable medium to do so.

Arranged into sub-sessions, townhall sessions, and dinner addresses, the speakers argued their case, spoke out their views and engaged delegates on the situation of the world mostly concerning the muslim-west divide, even delving into more specific positions of their countries of origin. In return the question and answer session was deeply utilised by delegates; some agreeing, others not.

One of the memorable points discussed during the conference included of that mentioned by H.E. Dr. Ahmad Mohamed Ali Al Madani, the President of the Islamic Development Bank who said that moderation or wasatiyyah is both the way of life and an ideal, and that the win or lose aspect of life is miniscule

compared to the need to create a win-win situation for all.

Almost every speaker also agreed that however, nowadays the minority of extremists in the world has eclipsed the vast majority of moderates and that this 1% of extremists is given 99% attention while the rest of the 99% are given little or no attention. Speakers subsequently, stressed on the need to agree on a common set of moderate values, as there were some apprehensive doubts that one's moderation is another one's extremism. The perfect balance of the moderation way of life could and should be instilled through numerous means such as education, banking, diplomacy and politics.

After the end of the 3-day international conference, speakers as well as delegates concluded that first, moderation, its notion and values is key in dealing with the global crisis and to uphold the interest of the humankind and should not be controlled by one independent party but discussed and determined together. Second, the deteriorating condition of our global finance should be reassessed injecting aspects of consideration for the shared interest of the community. Third, tolerance, moderation and diplomacy should be applied in all contacts between and within countries as the speakers and delegates believe that this is vital in eliminating extremism, stress and disagreements. Finally, the participants lauded and recognised ASEAN's role as the force of peace and moderation in East Asia.

As a move to ensure continuous effort of pushing for global moderation, the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Haji Abdul Razak also announced the formation of the Foundation of Global Movement of Moderates which was well received by the participants.

Fundamentally, this international conference has somewhat achieved

what it was designated to achieve. However, this has merely served as a stepping stone as the road towards moderation is still of dirt and rubble. Dialogues need to be materialised, promises need to be kept and ideas need to be executed. Time will tell if the outcome will be fruitful but for now we are on the right track.



The Director General's Working Visit to the Republic of Uzbekistan

by Major (R) Mohd Ridzuan Mohd Shariff

Normally whenever I received a phone call from Ms. Nadhirah, the special officer to the Director General, I would feel very apprehensive. She would call whenever there's something really important that the Director General would require from me. But on that day, she called me to inform that the Director General had requested me to follow him on his working trip to Tashkent, the Republic of Uzbekistan from 15 to 21 February 2012.

What followed after the phone call was a blurry recollection of events that occurred because I had a lot of preparations to be done. The Director General was invited to attend the international conference on Upbringing of Educated and Intellectually Advanced Generation as the Most Important Condition of Sustainable Development and Modernization of the Country in Tashkent on 16 to 17 February. This international conference was a gathering of top scholars, academicians and intellectuals from esteemed institutions around the world. Apart from that, I had to prepare the Director General's notes and power point slides for his lecture at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy (UWED) and also inclusive of the talking points and the mementos when the Director General visits the republic's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. All said, the Director General and I flew off to Tashkent on 15 February at 10.40 p.m.

We landed safely at the Tashkent International Airport on 16 February at 3.30 a.m. What I remembered most upon arrival was the cold three degrees Celsius temperature that hit us when we disembarked at the airport. Luckily the welcoming committee officials and staff from the embassy were there and quickly whisked us to the Tashkent International Palace Hotel where we would stay throughout the conference.

On the first day, we were taken on buses to visit the various levels of institutions of education provided by the government. Firstly, we were taken to Maktab 69, a primary equivalent school where we were shown enthusiastic children enthusiastically asking questions, eagerly responding to queries and such. The principal mentioned that education provided is free of charge by the government because the government put much emphasis on the future of the young generation through education. The other location was the Tashkent Technical College, a high school for technical and vocational courses and the Management Development Institute of Singapore in Tashkent, a university specifically for management courses.

The international conference was held on 17 February at the Palace of Symposiums in Tashkent and was officiated by H.E. Mr.

Islam Abduganiyevich Karimov, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. In his keynote address, the President reiterated on the importance of providing education to the young generation because the future direction and the success of the country will depend on them. After the keynote address, the delegates were divided into small groups, to discuss on the various working papers on education. The session ended very late in the afternoon whereby all the delegates were later invited to a sumptuous state sponsored dinner.

The next day, all the delegates were taken on a rapid train service called 'Afrasiyob' to visit the historical city of Samarkand. The visit was also a part of the events organised under the international conference with the purpose to showcase Samarkand as the centre or the ancient cradle of education since the early ages with the highlight on well known Islamic scholars such as Ibnu Sina, al Bayruni, Mirzo Ulugbek and Amir Timur, to name a few who were experts in medicine, astronomy, mathematics and a few others. The visit also included places of interests which were steeped in Islamic history and very beautiful architectural designs. There were large and beautiful mosques and madrasah which signified that Islam was once propagated from Samarkand, along the Silk Route from West to East.





The following day, another trip, this time by aircraft to the ancient city of Bukhara, 600km southeast of Tashkent, a city which boasted of Islamic artefact, arts, architectural designs and literature. It was an eye opening trip for both of us and we immersed ourselves thoroughly in the historic trip among the legacies and legends. Deep inside our hearts we felt the enormous contribution to knowledge and education brought by these Islamic scholars hundreds of years ago.

On our final day in Tashkent, the Director General fulfilled an invitation by the Rector of the prestigious UWED to present a lecture. The Director General was warmly welcomed by the Vice Rector Professor Dr. Hodjaer Bohodir Asadullehovich. The Director General presented a lecture entitled, "Malaysia's Foreign Policy" to a group of Master students who listened attentively to the Director General's eloquent and interesting lecture. The lecture was well received that it exceeded slightly over the one hour time allotted. The Director General and the Vice

Rector also held a discussion on the future training collaboration between UWED and IDFR.

To round up the working trip to Tashkent, the Director General also paid a courtesy call on H.E. Usmanov Oybek Arifbekovich, the republic's Deputy Foreign Minister at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Director General was accompanied by H.E. Mr. Aziz Harun, the Malaysian Ambassador to the republic during the courtesy call. During the courtesy call, the Deputy Foreign Minister acknowledged that IDFR had provided quality training for its officers over the years and this bode well for the ministry and the republic respectively. The Director General reciprocated by extending the invitation for the ministry to send its officers to the courses conducted under the MTCP program.

The one-week trip to Tashkent was very compact but memorable, with the itineraries fully lined up for all the delegates to the international conference. On the sidelines of the international conference, the Director

General was able to present a lecture at UWED and also paid a courtesy call on the republic's Deputy Foreign Minister. Moreover, we had the once in a lifetime opportunity to visit places of interest especially at the cradle of Islamic civilisation and education. On behalf of the Director General, I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who had directly or indirectly assisted us throughout our short stay in Tashkent, such as H.E. Mr. Aziz Harun, the Ambassador to Republic of Uzbekistan, Mr. Azhar Hassan, the Second Secretary at the embassy and Mr. Khusainov Shavkat Abdushukurovich, the Deputy Vice Rector of UWED, who was the Liaison Officer for our group. Without their assistance, we would not be able to do so many activities in so short a time.

Training Courses

IDFR had successfully conducted various training and language courses between January and March 2012.

A four-day Workshop on Public Diplomacy and Media Skills Series 1/2012 was conducted from 20 to 23 February 2012. The workshop was organised in order to provide the participants the knowledge on public diplomacy and media skills. In the era of instant reporting and 24-hour global coverage, it is pertinent that the public especially those directly involved in disseminating information and public affairs know how to handle the media. Information is vital and immediate response to critical situation is important and it could affect the public's perception. Thus, the workshop was very informative and was regarded by the participants as very useful and timely.

Another course held in February was the International Relations Module for the Diploma in Public Management (DPA) 1/2011, jointly organised by IDFR and the National Institute of Public Administration (INTAN). *Sidang E* was held from 13 to 18 February 2012, while *Sidang F* was held from 20 to 25 February 2012. The objective of the module is to endow the participants with greater understanding on the concept of diplomacy and international relations. The aim is to build global thinking among Malaysian officers equipped



Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Officers and Spouses under Sistem Pentadbiran Kerajaan Malaysia (SPKM)

with resourceful and multitalented knowledge and skills in diplomacy. The highlight of the module was the study visit organised to the High Commission of Malaysia in Singapore and the Civil Service College of Singapore. Several talks concerning the responsibilities and functions of the Malaysian diplomatic mission were delivered by the respective officers from the High Commission. The meeting with the CEO of the Civil Service College of Singapore also provided the platform for the participants to exchange views and make comparison between Malaysia and Singapore civil service. Certainly, the exposure and learning experience gained both in Singapore and Malaysia had broadened the participants understanding of the concept of international relations.

From 13 to 24 February 2012, IDFR had successfully conducted the first series of Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Officers and Spouses under *Sistem Pentadbiran Kerajaan Malaysia (SPKM)*. The first week of the course focused on the administrative matters at a mission and the second week was more on culture, etiquette and grooming. The participants were fortunate to have Puan Sri Jazliza Jalaluddin, wife of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Secretary General, and the President of Wisma Putra's Ladies Association (PERWAKILAN), to share her experience as a diplomat's wife during an interactive session of 'The Role of Spouse'. The participants were privileged as well when a session on 'Media Skills' was conducted by BERNAMA Editor-In-Chief himself, Datuk Yong Soo Heong.



International Relations Module for the Diploma in Public Management (DPA) 1/2011

The first Diplomatic Training Course (DTC) for International Participants for the year 2012 came to a successful conclusion with the Closing and Certificate Presentation Ceremony on Friday 30 March 2012. Several topics such as Introduction to International Relations Theory, Media Relations and Media Skills, International Negotiations, An Overview of Public Diplomacy, Human Rights Law and the Use of Force in International Law, Public Speaking, Cross Cultural Communication and



Diplomatic Training Course (DTC) for International Participants

Diplomacy in Crisis Management among others were discussed during the course. On top of that, the DTC participants also had the opportunity to attend a Special Address by His Excellency Ban Ki-moon, the United Nations Secretary

General during His Excellency's visit to IDFR. Most of the participants expressed their satisfaction for being able to attend such a significant event. The DTC participants were also brought on several study visits to various government ministries and

agencies to gain knowledge about their roles and functions. The visit also included to the Terengganu State Secretariat office, where the participants were briefed about the state's economic and development plans.

Language Courses

Say it Right: A Course in Pronunciation 1/2012 was successfully conducted from 21 to 23 February 2012. This three-day course primary aim was to enable the participants to improve their pronunciation and to speak with greater confidence. Participants were made aware of common pronunciation problems caused by inter-language interference.

Held from 27 to 30 March 2012 was a course on Effective Presentation Skills 1/2012. The primary aim was to equip everyone with the knowledge and skills of writing a good script for presentation as well as to deliver a speech confidently. The participants undertook the set task seriously and acknowledged that they gained much from the course.



Effective Presentation Skills 1/2012

Youth Seminar on Foreign Policy

by Khairul Bariah Che Amat

The Centre for Policy Research and International Studies (CenPRIS), Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) in collaboration with the Foreign Policy Study Group (FPSG) organised the Youth Seminar and Foreign Policy on 18 to 20 December 2011. The Seminar's main objective was to raise awareness on foreign policy decision making process and related issues among youth through closed roundtable discussion on three themes: Malaysia and the ASEAN Community; Malaysia, the United Nations System and Multilateralism; and Malaysia's Bilateral Relations.

The twenty-five participants of the Seminar were undergraduates from local public universities led by moderators comprised of highly distinguished experienced diplomats and foreign policy practitioners; Tan Sri Razali Ismail, Ambassador Dato' M. Redzuan Kushairi, Dato' Ahmad Mokhtar Selat, Datuk Dr. Rajmah Hussain, Tan Sri Mohd. Radzi Abdul Rahman, Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari and Associate Professor Ambassador Dr. Azhari Abdul Karim. Also present was Dato' Professor Omar Osman, Vice Chancellor of USM as the host.

Session 1 on Building strong bilateral relations for an integrated ASEAN Community was moderated by Ambassador Dato' M. Redzuan Kushairi, former Ambassador and Current Deputy Chairman of FPSG who discussed on ASEAN which ranged from the background of ASEAN such as the reasons of formation, the five founding leaders and the challenging early years of ASEAN. He also briefly discussed on the development of ASEAN throughout the years in core aspects of political, security, economic, social and the acceleration towards the ASEAN Community by 2015.

Session 2 on The Architecture of Multilateralism and the future

of Inter-regional Dialogues was moderated by Tan Sri Razali Ismail, former Ambassador, Chairman of FPSG and Honorable Pro Chancellor of USM. He enlightened the participants on Malaysia's experiences in various international organisations such as the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), OIC, NAM, Commonwealth and several other organisations.

Session 3 on Engaging the Public in Diplomacy: The Way Forward was moderated by Dato' Ahmad Mokhtar Selat, former Ambassador and Senior Lecturer of Sultan Idris Education University (UPSI). He discussed on how media can help ASEAN to be seen as a more realistic organisation by the world since there are now parties questioning whether ASEAN is still relevant in today's world.

Associate Professor Ambassador Dr. Azhari Abdul Karim concluded the Session by leaving a question unanswered for the participants to ponder on as symbolic which hopefully, there will be continuity for the Seminar: "Is Malaysia becoming a multilateral player and no longer ASEAN champion?"

As expressed by all present, the Seminar was seen as an aspiration for a series of similar seminar to be held in the future with participation from each local and private university to ensure the youth generation is well-versed in all aspects of foreign policy. This would also ensure that the next generation of foreign policy practitioners is well-trained and prepared to uphold the sovereignty of the country.

Overall, the Seminar has managed to fulfill the objective through effective and stimulating discussion guided by the perfect moderators and they managed to invoke realisation among the participants on the encumbrance of the duties carries by Wisma Putra in ensuring that Malaysia is

always seen as a respectable and responsible player and partner globally.



Farewell Moments



Bidding farewell is part and parcel of life be it in the world of work or in social settings. We at IDFR held a farewell function in honour of two of our beloved colleagues on 15 March 2012. They were none other than Ambassador Abdullah Faiz Zain, the Deputy Director General of IDFR and Puan Rozanah Ibrahim, the Director of the Language Division at IDFR. Ambassador Abdullah Faiz Zain has been newly appointed as Malaysia's Ambassador to Yemen while Puan Rozanah said goodbye to her teaching career and is looking forward to a retired life. A large

crowd comprising majority of IDFR staff turned out at the IDFR VIP Dining Room to honour the two most beloved figures in IDFR.

Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, Director General of IDFR delivered his remarks with recollections of charming and challenging moments shared with both of the celebrated figures. The Director General also acknowledged their hard work and dedication while contributing to the high reputation of IDFR. No words can aptly describe how heartrending it is for IDFR to finally bid adieu to the two powerful

personas after facing all the ups and downs throughout the years.

Ambassador Abdullah Faiz Zain and Puan Rozanah Ibrahim in their speeches expressed their appreciation to all IDFR staff for the cooperation, support and good moments shared and their fervent hope for IDFR to be a renowned diplomatic training institute.

The event was concluded with presentation of mementos to Ambassador Abdullah Faiz Zain and Puan Rozanah Ibrahim. IDFR hopes to maintain ties with both of them as long as possible and is also looking forward to hear about their upcoming adventures in the new paths taken, Ambassador Abdullah Faiz Zain in the tough Yemen cocoon and Puan Rozanah Ibrahim in her domestic path.

It is never a 'Goodbye' from IDFR for both of them but instead it is a 'See you soon' and IDFR will always be a place they can call 'My IDFR'.

A Tribute: Ambassador Abdullah Faiz Zain



Ambassador Abdullah Faiz Zain or Ambassador Faiz as he is fondly known at IDFR, started his career in the Foreign Service in 1981 as Assistant Secretary in the ASEAN Division. Among his overseas postings include the Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations in New York; the Malaysian Embassy in Yangon, Myanmar; and the Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations in Geneva. In 2003, he was appointed as Malaysia's first Ambassador to Timor Leste and in 2006 as Malaysia's Ambassador to Chile.

Ambassador Faiz held the post of Deputy Director General at IDFR from November 2009 to February 2012. Among his achievements at IDFR was helping the committee for the first ever Wisma Putra International Charity Bazaar, which was a huge success

despite the short preparation time of four months. After a short stint as Deputy Chief of Protocol at the Ministry, he left to take up his post as Ambassador to Yemen.

An avid photographer, Ambassador Faiz was often seen with his camera, capturing candid moments during IDFR's more informal activities including our Family Day in Cherating, Pahang; our Hari Raya Open House and during the cooking and distributing of *Bubur Lambuk* last Ramadan.

Ambassador Faiz was also one of the contributors to the book *Number One Wisma Putra* which was published in 2006 to commemorate 50 years of Malaysia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs with his article entitled, "Timor Leste: From the Ashes, a Nation Reborn".

A Tribute: Mrs. Rozanah Ibrahim

Mrs. Rozanah Ibrahim, the Director of Language Division retired recently from IDFR, marking the end of her illustrious career in the academic field. Her vast experience in the academic and senior administrative posts was indeed an asset to our institute, and her contribution to IDFR was both impactful and highly appreciated.

We, the team from the Language Division have penned down our thoughts of her here:

I first met Mrs. Rozanah Ibrahim in early 2006, and my impression of her at that time was what a capable and formidable lady she is. Through the subsequent years of working with her, my first impression of her was not wrong. She is a capable, formidable lady with good leadership qualities and a cheerful disposition. She led by example and is a team player. She knew when to tighten the rein and when to let loose.

Her dedication, guidance, patience, tolerance, booming laugh and the sumptuous impromptu luncheon will be cherished forever...

- Wan Faizah Wan Yusoff

*Rozanah our dear leader
Our earnest mentor
Zealous and full of zest
Active and creative
Noble in nature
Aggressive to achieve
Honorable and humble*

- Joyce Abraham

*A friend to all
From young to old
Most generous
With all of us
Meals so sumptuous
Food so scrumptious
Singing diva
Dancing star
Always caring
Ever sharing
Yet a feisty
Valiant Lady*

- Jeanette Daina

*I enjoyed very much being in your team.
May Allah give you the best of this world
and the hereafter.*

- Hassan Mohid Ali

Mrs. Rozanah, we know that you do not simply retire from work; you have something to retire to. We also know that you are embarking on a new journey and on to another exceptional chapter of your life. My wish for you is may your days be filled with elation and full of triumph. We thank you for your integrity, dedication and the examples you left behind.

It is time to say goodbye to tension, hello to pension. Finally the phrase "Blue Mondays" is no longer part of your vocabulary and eternal holiday looms. Please remember us with affection and pay us a visit from time to time to this humble but honorable institute where you left part of your life.

- Agustín Gutierrez

On first meeting you, the impression was what a serious and stern lady you are, but as time passes by, the sternness melted and your affection and infectious laughter lighted up our humdrum working days. Your dedication and commitment to your work will always be an example to us. Now you have left us but the memories of you will linger on. We will miss you...

- Kamaruddin A. Hussin

The greatest lady boss I have ever worked with and I have always found it easy to work with her. She is a polite lady and always generous with her smiles. She may look stern and a no nonsense lady on the outside but there is a gentle and loving side to her.

- Nina Sharida Mohd Arshad



Farewell Mrs. Rozanah. Thank you for all the good times. We will miss you....

IDFR's New Deputy Director General



On 15 February 2012, IDFR welcomed its new Deputy Director General, Ambassador Aminahtun A. Karim. A career diplomat, Ambassador Aminahtun was with the Protocol and Consular Division of the Ministry before her attachment here.

Ambassador Aminahtun replaced Ambassador Abdullah Faiz Zain, who was Deputy Director General from 10 November 2009 to 14 February 2012, and who is currently the Ambassador of Malaysia to the Republic of Yemen.

We welcome Ambassador Aminahtun to the IDFR family, and we bid Al-Wadal to Ambassador Abdullah Faiz.

Ambassador Aminahtun's brief biodata is listed:

Dates	Duties
6 July 2011-14 February 2012	Served as Deputy Chief of Protocol, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
14 December 2007- 5 July 2011	Served as Ambassador to Croatia
22 September 2004-13 December 2007	Served as Ambassador to Ukraine
18 November 2002-21 September 2004	Served as Undersecretary (Consular), Ministry of Foreign Affairs
3 February 2001-17 November 2002	Served as Principal Assistant Secretary (East Asia), Ministry of Foreign Affairs
23 April 1996-2 February 2001	Served as Counselor, Embassy of Malaysia, Jakarta
4 November 1991-22 April 1996	Served as Senior Assistant Secretary (Western Europe), Ministry of Foreign Affairs
6 January 1989-3 November 1991	Served as First Secretary, High Commission of Malaysia, Ottawa
10 June 1988-5 January 1989	Served as Second Secretary, High Commission of Malaysia, Ottawa
12 April 1987-9 June 1988	Served as Assistant Secretary (West Asia and Africa), Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2 January 1987-12 April 1987	Served as Assistant Secretary (ASEAN), Ministry of Foreign Affairs
9 January 1984-1 January 1987	Served as Assistant Secretary (Protocol), Ministry of Foreign Affairs
16 June 1982-8 January 1984	Joined the Foreign Service and served as Assistant Secretary (Southeast Asia), Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Upcoming Courses / Events at IDFR*

Mandarin Level 2	2 April - 11 June 2012
Diploma in Diplomacy (DiD)	16 April - 6 October 2012
Orientation Course for Personal Assistants and Secretaries	16 - 27 April 2012
Mandarin Level 1	17 April - 26 June 2012
Effective Writing Skills 1/2012	23 - 26 April 2012
Pre-Posting Orientation Course for Officers and Spouses under <i>Sistem Kerajaan Malaysia di Luar Negara (SPKM) 2/2012</i>	7 - 18 May 2012
Spanish Level III	15 May - 13 December 2012
Spanish Level II	23 May - 14 December 2012
Spanish Level III	25 June - 5 December 2012
Arabic Level VIII	26 June - 7 December 2012
Crisis Management for International Participants (MTCP)	4 - 22 June 2012
High Level Workshop on International Negotiations for Senior Officers	19 - 22 June 2012
Orientation Course for Heads of Mission and their Spouses 1/2012	25 - 29 June 2012

* Subject to changes



To our colleagues celebrating their birthdays in April, May and June

April

Azrul Nizam, Farra Aida, Ida Rosyanty, Raimi Amzar, Fadhilah, Solahah, Siti Najmah, Wan Mohd Azrul and Romaiza

May

Mohd Farid, Fareeza, Abdul Rashid, Gunaselvam, Muhammad Azri, Kamariah, Suzalina, Nik Latifah, Che Nurulhuda, Zaiza, Suhaiza, Suriya Zanariya, Agustin Gutierrez C., Ahmad Yani and Izura

June

Norhana, Dzuita, Nadhirah, Mohd Azlan, Isaac Peter, Nor Azura, Mohd Saiful Anuar, Muhamad Ridzuan, Hetty Dzurin and Azizah

To our colleague, Norhana, who recently took the vows of matrimony

To our colleagues, who left us with pleasant memories

Ambassador Abdullah Faiz Mohd Zain – posted to the Embassy of Malaysia, Sana'a, Yemen
 Rozanah Ibrahim – ended her contract tenure
 Mohd Sabri Zakaria – transferred to Kementerian Pelancongan Malaysia Negeri Terengganu
 Jeya Seelan A/L Subramaniam – transferred to Biro Pengaduan Awam, Jabatan Perdana Menteri
 Shasriman Aziz – transferred to Kementerian Penerangan, Komunikasi dan Kebudayaan
 Muhammad Azri – pursued his tertiary study at Universiti Selangor
 Norhana – transferred to Royal Malaysian Customs Department, Putrajaya

To our colleagues who had a 'visit from the stork' recently

Azmah, Solahah, Izura, Mohamad Fairuz, Mahassan, Haslil Hadi and Suriya Zanariya

Editorial Committee

Patron: Ambassador Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari
Advisor: Ambassador Aminah Tun Haji A. Karim
Editor: Rahimah Yeop
Editorial Team: Alina Murni Md. Isa Dzuita Mohamed

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