BMS concert: Music for Malaysia
A concert celebrating 60 years of Merdeka

The Society presented the concert Music for Malaysia at St Lawrence Jewry, Guildhall Yard, London, on Tuesday 3 October 2017, as part of the BMS celebration of Malaysia’s 60th Anniversary of Merdeka (Independence) and featured the work of contemporary Malaysian composers Tazul Tajuddin, Chong Lim Ng and Pei Ann Yeo.

Their pieces were performed by Malaysian musicians based in the UK – award winning and internationally recognised pianists Bobby Chen and Mei Yi Foo, recent music graduates Yeoh Pei Ann and Hao Zi Yoh, and a special performance by soprano Kharunnisa Diyana Md Noor from the Faculty of Music UiTM.

An arrangement of the score “Sketch for Malaysia” written for Malaya’s (now Malaysia) National Anthem was performed by Bobby Chen, and Haliza Hashim-Doyle narrated the fascinating story behind Malaysia’s National Anthem, Negara Ku.

Guests also had the wonderful opportunity to hear the winning compositions of the BMS 60th Merdeka Music Award from the graduates of the Overseas Masters Winter Piano Academy performed by concert pianist Bobby Chen, the Academy’s founder.

During the interval in the Commonwealth Chapel guests had the chance to view the stained glass windows commemorating the Commonwealth countries existing in 1957, including the Federation of Malaya.

Following the concert an optional buffet supper was available for concertgoers in the Members Private Dining Room of the Guildhall Club, Guildhall, facilitated by the kind support of Alderman Sir Alan Yarrow, Lord Mayor in 2014-15, who was born in Malaysia.

Talk by HE Vicki Treadell: “Malaysia in the 60th year of Merdeka”

HE Vicki Treadell, British High Commissioner to Malaysia, gave a talk “Malaysia in the 60th year of Merdeka” at The Inner Temple, London on Wednesday 27 September 2017.

The event was attended by over 50 BMS members and guests who heard the High Commissioner present an insightful view of Malaysia in the 60th year of Merdeka.

She was candid in reviewing the current political situation, economic progress and growing concern over creeping intolerance.

SAVE THE DATE

We have two more special events for the 60th Merdeka, so please save the following dates:

**Tuesday 31 October**
BMS Annual Dinner at the Inner Temple, 7.00pm – 11.00pm

**Monday 18 December**
Chairman’s Christmas Reception
House of Lords, 6.30pm – 8.30pm

There will be a charge for both these events.

More details are on our website.

Monday 4 December
“Education Panel Discussion”, House of Lords, 6.00pm to 8.00pm

Thursday 4 January 2018
Talk by Tony Collingridge, “Prospects for the Malaysian economy, trade and investment in 2018”, venue TBA, 6.00pm to 8.30pm.

OTHER EVENTS: Members will be notified of other events to which they will be invited, including those organised by My-UK and Malaysian Govt bodies, including MIDA and MATRADE. Members will be advised of full details, and how to book/pay, by flyers sent out nearer the date.

www.thebritishmalaysiansociety.org

Commemorative Conference: 60 Years of Malaysia-UK Relations
LONDON - A Commemorative Conference: 60 Years of Malaysia-UK Relations was held at The Parkcity Grand Plaza Hotel, Kensington on Thursday 14 September 2017

Panel discussion – BMS photo

This year marked the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Malaysia and the United Kingdom. The continued close people-to-people ties at the ground level and the revival of high-level visits in more recent years including those by Prime Minister Najib, former Prime Minister Cameron and the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, attest to the commitment of both countries to nurture this relationship which has gone from strength to strength.

The Conference highlighted the strong and solid bond between the United Kingdom and Malaysia.

Britain’s recent Brexit vote and Malaysia’s pivotal role in ASEAN has enabled the strengthening of business and economic relations. The Conference discussed ways take bilateral ties to new heights.

The event was held in the presence of His Excellency Dato’ Ahmad Rasidi Harizi, the Malaysian High Commissioner to UK, who was guest of honour and delivered the opening address.

There was a Special Address by The Hon Richard Graham MP, the Trade Envoy of the British Prime Minister with Keynote Address by Tan Sri Abdul Wahid Omar, member, National Economic Council. There were two panel sessions.

Talk by Peter Hadsch-Chaplin “100 years of Palm Oil – its outlook and sustainability for the future”

Peter Hadsch-Chaplin, Chairman of MP Evans plc, who has worked in the palm oil industry for many years, gave a highly entertaining and informative talk on 100 years of palm oil and its sustainability for the future at London Capital Club on 11 July 2017.

He noted the route palm oil took from Africa to Indonesia and Malaysia, and how it flourished in these countries but not in Africa. He also commented on the environmental degradation in both Malaysia and Indonesia and destruction of the natural habitat of the orang utan and other animals.
Eid Dinner at Satay House, London

The Society held its annual Eid Dinner at Satay House, Sale Place, London on 5 July 2017. Mrs Dato’’ Ahmad Rasidi Hazizi, Malaysian High Commissioner to the UK, was guest of honour and nearly 30 members attended the dinner. Established for over 40 years, Satay House Malaysian Restaurant (which is a BMS member) serves traditional authentic Malaysian cuisine. Since 1973, the restaurant has created exceptionally fresh and delicious food found in one of South East Asia’s most enchanting countries, Malaysia. http://www.satay-house.co.uk/

British war veterans recall fond memories of serving in Malaya

By HASHINI KAVISHTHI KANNAN New Straits Times August 29, 2017

The 39 members of the United National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association (NMBVAA) arriving at Kuala Lumpur International Airport. Pic by NSTP/ABD RHMAM MOHD NOOR

SEPANG: Malaya, now Malaysia, has always been regarded a second home for most British Voluntary Veterans who fought and safeguarded the country during the time of the Communist insurgency and Indonesia-Malaysia confrontation.

The love they have for the country and its people appears as strong as ever as the veterans shared their fondest memories of residing in Malaysia in the early years of post-independence.

All 39 of them will be joining the Merdeka parade on August 31, while their wives and children will be witnessing the grand celebration.

NMBVAA International liaison officer, 71-year-old John Measham from Portsmouth, said it is an honour to be back in Malaysia for the 60th Merdeka celebration.

The entourage of 52 people is scheduled to visit the Cheras War Cemetery. https://www.nst.com.my

Join BMS Whatever your connection to Malaysia there is likely to be something for you within the society, especially for those who have lived or worked in Malaysia. If you have an interesting item of news or something else to contribute, please send your contribution to: newsletter@thebritishmalaysiansociety.org

Malaysia marks National Day in a show of love, solidarity

The Malay Mail Online Thursday 31 August 2017

KUALA LUMPUR - Malaysians from all walks of life today celebrated National Day 2017 around the country in an overwhelming expression of love and solidarity.

Malaysians thronged the venues of the celebration in the federal and state capitals and other cities to watch a colourful display of culture and dance, marching bands and uniformed personnel.

The showcase on the ground and the flypast of aircraft overhead in Kuala Lumpur were complemented by visual displays on giant LED screens that delivered the story and message of the performance and parade clearly to the public.

The National Day extravaganza was themed “Negerakar: Sehati Sejiwa” (My Country: One Heart, One Soul).

The Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Sultan Muhammad V, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, Cabinet ministers and guests watched the performance and parade. http://www.themalaymailonline.com/

Talk by Professor Terence Gomez: “Politics, policies and the corporate sector in Malaysia”

In a joint event with Coventry University and the BMS, Professor Terence Gomez, Professor of Political Economy, University of Malaya, gave a talk ‘Politics, policies and the corporate sector in Malaya’ at Coventry University’s London Campus on 27 July 2017

The engaging talk provided a historical review of government-business relations in Malaysia, tracing how this nexus shaped the mode of the state’s intervention in the economy and the nature of its politics and policies. Particular attention was paid to critical historical junctures, when crises precipitated change in models of development and the relationship between management control and public governance of government-linked investment companies, GLCs.

Professor Gomez said Malaysia provided an interesting case of state intervention in the economy to drive economic growth and redistribute wealth equitably.

Professor Gomez’s book “Minister of Finance Incorporated; Ownership and Control of Corporate Malaysia” has been published in Malaysia and shows how much the Malaysian government controls the economy.

Finding Eden - Talk by Robin Hanbury-Tenison


At a Sarawak Association talk at the Royal Over-Seas League in London on 29 September, attended by a number of BMS members, Robin Hanbury-Tenison, OBE, DL, gave a lively illustrated presentation “Finding Eden, a journey into the heart of Borneo”, an account of his recent visit to Borneo, 40 years after the great Royal Geographical Society Mulu Expedition of 1978, the largest ever RGS expedition.

Robin Hanbury-Tenison, the doyen of British explorers, spoke of his recollections and reflections on Mulu to where he led the Royal Geographical Society Expedition.

He witnessed vast changes in the area. The villages were all but gone. Even the village where he befriended a family was not spared.

Indiscriminate and extensive illegal logging was destroying the natural habitat of animals, especially the orang utan.

BMS now has Facebook and Twitter, welcome news for BMS members and friends. Now social media users can click on to BMS Facebook and Twitter: Facebook: www.facebook.com/thebritishmalaysiansociety1983 Twitter: @BritishMsianSoc

Najib and May reaffirm Malaysia-UK ties

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, met his UK counterpart Theresa May at 10, Downing Street in London. — Bernama pic

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said he and his UK counterpart Theresa May reaffirmed strong relations between both countries in their meeting on 14 September 2017.

Najib said he told May in their meeting at 10 Downing Street, the UK Prime Minister’s office and official residence, that Malaysia would be happy to discuss setting up a trade arrangement with the UK, even as the UK is in the process of leaving the European Union.

As an outward-looking trading nation, which the World Bank recently said is facing the future ‘from a position of strength’, Malaysia welcomes the opportunity to have a closer economic partnership with the UK,” he added.

The Malaysian leader said his country and the UK were united in the fight against terrorism and extremism.

Bernama

http://www.themalaymailonline.com

Anak Anak Malaysia

This year Eco World once again participated in the AnakAnakMalaysia campaign which celebrates Malaysia’s diversity and promotes unity and understanding among its people.

In conjunction with National and Malaysia Day, BMS members joined the Eco World campaign for drinks and refreshments at Rasa Sayang (in China Town) on Wednesday 23 August 2017, and joined other Malaysians for a group photo, complete with Malaysian flags, in Trafalgar Square.

Hari Raya Aidilfitri Open House in London

Over 1,000 Malaysians, guests and some BMS members attended the Hari Raya Aidilfitri Open House at Rumah Malaysia (official residence of HE the High Commissioner of Malaysia), on Saturday 14 July 2017.

His Excellency Dato’ Ahmad Rasidi Hazizi, the Malaysian High Commissioner to UK, and his wife welcomed guests on a sunny day.

Produced and edited by The British Malaysian Society

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