



# The British Malaysian Society

Newsletter – Summer 2016

## BMS AGM and President's Reception



(From left) Peter Farrar (Hon Treasurer) Sir Mark Moody-Stuart (President) Anthony Cooper (Chairman) Dr Euvian Tan (Hon Secretary), Albert Bong (Past Hon Secretary)

The BMS Annual General Meeting was held at the Travellers Club, 106 Pall Mall, London on Wednesday 11 May 2016. There were 30 attendees.

Chairman Anthony Cooper in his remarks thanked Albert Bong for his contribution as the Honorary Secretary for the past five years and welcomed Euvian Tan as the new Honorary Secretary.

The Chairman highlighted the good relationship that had been established with the Malaysian High Commission and especially the High Commissioner, Dato' Ahmad Rasidi Hazizi, who hosted two events. He said that six events had been held to date with a further eight planned for the rest of the year.

The Chairman emphasised the need for a new constitution to modernise our structure and to appeal to a broader audience with Malaysian interests. He thanked Martin Barrow for his help in drafting the new constitution, which was unanimously approved by the members present. The Chairman thanked the President, Sir Mark Moody-Stuart and the Vice Presidents, Sir David Greenaway and Lord Powell for their support for the Society. He concluded by thanking members of the Executive Committee and the Treasurer, Peter Farrar, who had ensured that the Society's finances continued to be kept in a healthy state.

## AMB TALK – An Insight into Malaysia's Islamic Capital Market

Award winning Malaysian mutual fund house, Amanah Mutual Berhad (AMB), hosted a talk with its sister company, PNB (UK) Ltd, in London, Wednesday May 18, 2016

The talk gave guests valuable information in relation to the Islamic Capital Market in

Malaysia in the area of unit trust investment

Islamic Finance in the past two decades has come to the attention of global conventional capital market players. A unique form of Socially Responsible Investment, it is gaining recognition throughout the world and its ethical nature is even drawing the interest of non-Muslims.

In June 2014, the UK government became the first country outside the Islamic world to issue an Islamic fixed income bond, Sukuk, worth GBP200 million

## FORTHCOMING BMS EVENTS

### Tuesday 13 September

Talk by Dato' Sri Nazir Razak, Chairman of CIMB, PwC offices, London. 6pm.

### Monday 3 October

Annual dinner Inner Temple, London 7.00pm to 10.30pm

### Wednesday 19 October

Talk by Andrew Barber, "Malaysia – the outlook for 2017". Layton's offices, London. 6pm.

### December Chairman's Christmas reception

**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](http://www.thebritishmalaysiansociety.org)

## Chris Ennew awarded an OBE

In the Queen's Birthday Honours announced on June 11, Professor Chris Ennew, the CEO and Provost of University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus, was awarded an OBE. The citation states "For services to Higher Education and British-Malaysian relations". She takes up her new position as Provost of Warwick University in August. Chris has been a strong supporter of the BMS for many years and latterly has been an inaugural and active committee member of the Malaysia British Society. BMS offers Chris its warmest congratulations.

## KL Speakers Club London

During the BMS AGM and President's Reception Lady Judy Moody-Stuart announced that women members of BMS are welcome to join the KL Speakers Club in London. Please contact Lady Judy for further information at [judy Moody-Stuart@msmjc.com](mailto:judy Moody-Stuart@msmjc.com)

The British Malaysian Society wishes all its members and friends Selamat Hari Raya Aidil Fitri

## Malaysian High Commissioner's Briefing on Malaysia policies



(From left) Sir Ronald Halstead CBE, President, Conservative Foreign & Commonwealth Council (CFCC), HE Dato' Ahmad Rasidi Hazizi, The Rt Hon The Lord Astor of Hever PC DL, Chairman: CFCC, Sir William Cash MP, Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Malaysia.

Malaysian High Commissioner in the UK, HE Dato' Ahmad Rasidi Hazizi, gave a rousing briefing to a packed audience, that included British Malaysian Society members, covering foreign policy priorities, the economic situation and bilateral relations with UK and Malaysia.

The event was held at the Malaysian High Commission on Tuesday, 9 May, 2016.

## Talk by Dr Razeen Sally, "ASEAN – its political and economic challenges"



Dr Razeen Sally addressing the audience

Dr Razeen Sally, Associate Professor at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore, gave a highly informative talk "ASEAN - its political and economic challenges" at The Travellers Club, London, on Tuesday 21 June 2016. In his talk, Dr Razeen expounded his views on the state of play and growth outlook for ASEAN, which looks promising and healthy despite the diversity and inherent challenges in the region. He also gave a broad perspective on the accomplishments of some ASEAN members and highlighted critical issues that need to be addressed to foster political stability and economic developments in the region.

Photo credit: Stephanie Cheong/Studeo M

## Malaysia Opera Puteri Saadong draws huge crowd in London

On the 14th May, the mesmerising music of "Opera Puteri Saadong" transported the audience at the Tabernacle Theatre in Notting Hill to 17th century Kelantan and the mythical story of a Malay princess.

The legend is a passionate tale of the beautiful princess, Puteri Saadong, who on marrying Raja Abdullah of Kelantan was given a special hair ornament. This loving marriage was disrupted by the King of Siam, Raja Narai, who waged war on Kelantan and captured her. Saadong was released after a time when he did not get what he desired and she returned to Kelantan to find Raja Abdullah with another woman. In a jealous rage, she kills him with her hair ornament.

The composer of the opera, the first in Malay, is Tazul Tajuddin, an acclaimed award winning composer who was featured in the BMS concert "Musical Journeys" at the Cadogan Hall in 2007. Tazul has magnificently created an original opera that weaves Malay musical traditions of gamelan, rebab and serunai into a contemporary classical music score.

The Chroma Ensemble performed Tazul's score imaginatively and expertly despite the lack of a traditional gamelan or rebab. The UK chorus sang brilliantly in Malay after just 3 days of rehearsals. All 3 main soloists were exceptional and the elaborate songket costumes helped transform them into their roles beautifully.

Ildiko Allen as Puteri Saadong captured the torment and emotion with her inspiring voice, Tom Raskin as Raja Abdullah gave a very well balanced performance while William Townend as Raja Narai portrayed the menacing Thai King

BMS congratulates Tazul and D'Catz @ work on their superb efforts at capturing this legend in a magical Opera and for bringing this production to London

## "Past and Present in Malaysia: the Uses and Abuses of History"

A talk by David Phillips



The talk reflected that there have been many versions of the history of the component parts of Malaysia from the time of the Malay legends and 'hikayat', Iban 'pantun' etc. to the present day and how all have been a response to contemporary political and social circumstances - some admirable, some not.

BMS members and guests attended the talk at the Royal Over-Seas League, Park Place, London on Thursday 5 May

## 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](mailto:newsletter@thebritishmalaysiansociety.org)

## Malaysian PM addresses Malaysia-UK Investor Showcase

Extracted from The Malay Mail Online, May 16 2016



Malaysia Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak addressing attendees. Looking on are (left) Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council (CWEIC) Chairman Lord Marland, Minister of State for Trade and Investment UK Lord Price

LONDON - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said that the reality of Malaysia's continuing economic success is often clouded by issues that are overly politicised.

He lamented that this was due to some people trying to paint a different picture of Malaysia for their own selfish ends when the nation's economic underlying fundamentals had consistently been strong.

"Politics is always lively in our country, but if issues are overly politicised - as they have been - the reality of Malaysia's continuing success story can be harder to see," he said at the Malaysia-United Kingdom Investor Showcase at Marlborough House, Pall Mall, in the British capital today

The one-day showcase, aimed at attracting investors, including fund managers to invest in Malaysia, was attended by 188 British companies and 34 Malaysian companies

Lord Marland, Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland, Lord Price, senior government representatives and officials attended the showcase organised by the Malaysian Investment Development Authority and the CWEIC.

An impressive array of speakers and panellists included UK and Malaysian Ministers, the Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Malaysia Richard Graham MP, Tan Sri Munir Majid, former Lord Mayor of the City of London Alan Yarrow and influential businessmen.

The event highlighted the opportunities for UK exporters and investors and provided insight into a leading market in one of the world's fastest growing regions - ASEAN.

British Malaysian Society members attended the event.

<http://www.themalaymailonline.com>

## Brexit: Britain to continue focusing on strengthening relations with Malaysia, says British High Commissioner

Extracted from The Malay Mail Online Friday June 24, 2016

KUALA LUMPUR - The British High Commission here will continue to focus on further strengthening the relationship with Malaysia for the mutual interest of both countries.

"We welcome Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's statement. The United Kingdom (UK) and Malaysia are important partners and this does not change," said British High Commissioner to Malaysia, HE Vicki Treadell.

She said this in a statement following the decision by the UK to exit the European Union (EU) or Brexit referendum on Thursday.

Najib in a statement commenting on the referendum said whatever comes to pass, he was confident the Malaysia-UK relationship would be maintained and strengthened.

## Malayan Volunteers Group Talk



Rosemary Fell delivers her talk with Jonathan Moffatt (middle) and Anthony Cooper

The British Malaysian Society in association with The Malayan Volunteers Group held a lunch talk by MVG Founder Rosemary Fell and historian Jonathan Moffatt at the Malaysian High Commission, on Tuesday 12 April

The talk "The purpose and development of the MVG and how it deals with historical enquiries" focused on the founding of MVG and dealing with enquiries about the British Forces in Malaya.

Rosemary is the Hon Secretary of the MVG. She became interested in the Malayan Volunteers, to which her father belonged, and subsequently founded the MVG. She related how this came about and what they have been doing since

Jonathan is the MVG's historian and archivist and has a background in teaching and research on British Malaya related themes. He was a founder member of the MVG and talked about his research into the Malayan Volunteers and how he deals with enquiries.

[www.malayanvolunteersgroup.org.uk](http://www.malayanvolunteersgroup.org.uk)

## New BMS Hon Secretary Dr Euvian Tan

Euvian is a biochemist with 10 years of work experience in life sciences consulting and research. She is an associate of Profiscio, a consultancy business to facilitate and support scientific innovation and development. She is a mentor for BioStars, a life sciences and healthcare startup accelerator by Panacea Innovation (formerly Oxford Biotech) and also sits on the European Nanomedicine Translation Advisory Board. Previously, she was a management consultant specialising in the pharmaceutical industry and also worked in drug discovery research at GlaxoSmithKline.

Euvian holds a BSc in Biochemistry from Imperial College London and a PhD in Biotechnology from Cambridge University. Her PhD research was funded by GlaxoSmithKline and also resulted in a new patent filing, which was licensed by a Cambridge University spin-out.

She is passionate about education and supports various educational non-profits such as STEMNet, Pan Asian Women's Association and The Global Skills Project.