The British Malaysian Society
Newsletter – Summer 2017

BMS AGM and President’s Reception

The British Malaysian Society held its Annual General Meeting at the Travellers Club, Pall Mall, London, on Thursday 15 June. About 40 members and guests attended.

The President, Sir Mark Moody-Stuart, thanked the Chairman and the Executive Committee for their support and service to the Society. He also commended the Society’s move to involve more students and fully supported the Committee’s efforts to explore all avenues in creating effective student engagement.

The President’s reception followed the AGM.

Chairman’s report

The Chairman, Anthony Cooper, welcomed all attendees to the AGM.

New honorary life members Dato’ Neville Green (left) and Dr John Breakell (right) with Sir Mark Moody-Stuart

He was also pleased to see Puan Sri Liz Maggie (wife of TNB Chairman Tan Sri Leo Maggie) and Charles Humphrey, CMG, (a former British ambassador to Indonesia and current Chairman of the Anglo Indonesian Society).

The Chairman announced new honorary life membership for Dato’ Neville Green and Dr John Breakell for their invaluable service and support to the Society over many years.

The Chairman said 2016 had been an active year during which the BMS had held 14 events – two topical, three on business matters, four on education and culture, and five other events including the annual dinner. Members were also invited to other events by affiliated organisations and Malaysian organisations including the Malaysian High Commissioner, MIDA and MATRADE.

He highlighted the good relationship that had been established with the Malaysian High Commission and especially the High Commissioner, Dato’ Ahmad Rasidi Haziz, who hosted two events in 2016.

He noted 2016 also saw an increase in membership, especially younger members.

He said two key areas of focus for the Society this year were corporate membership and student engagement.

He also announced the agreement and signing of an MOU with the British Malaysian Chamber of Commerce (BMCC). The reciprocal arrangement aims to increase the opportunities and benefits of members of both the BMCC and BMS towards the common objective of fostering stronger relations between the UK and Malaysia.

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SAVE THE DATE

We have three special events later this year, the 60th Merdeka, so please save the following dates:

Tuesday 3 October
Merdeka Concert, a musical evening by Malaysian performers to celebrate 60 years of independence. An optional supper following the performance will be available.
Concert at St Lawrence Jewry, 6.00pm - 8.00pm
Supper at the Guildhall Club, London, 8.30pm

Tuesday 31 October
Annual Dinner at the Inner Temple
7.00pm – 10.30pm

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

There will be a charge for each of these events. More details are on our website and booking will open after notices have been sent out a few weeks before the event.

Islamic Finance: what it means & the opportunities for the UK post-Brexit

The BMS and Institute of Directors (IoD) City of London Branch jointly held a talk “Islamic Finance: what it means & the opportunities for the UK post-Brexit” at the premises of PwC on Wednesday 5 April.

The discussion explored the power and potential of Islamic Finance including problems that persist that prevent the industry growing to the next level.

FORTHCOMING BMS EVENTS

Thursday 27 July
Talk by Prof Terence Gomez, of the University of Malaya
“The Government’s business: Politics, policies and the corporate sector in Malaysia”
Coventry University London
6.00pm to 8.30pm

Wednesday 27 September
Talk by HE Vicki Treadell, British High Commissioner to Malaysia.
Inner Temple, London,
6.00pm to 8.30pm

Tuesday 3 October
Merdeka Concert
St Lawrence Jewry, London, 6.00pm to 8.00pm, followed by optional late supper at 8.30pm at the Guildhall Club

The British Malaysian Society wishes all our members and friends ‘Selamat Hari Raya’ (Eid Mubarak)

Lord Sheikh of Cornhill addressing attendees
Seated from left: M Iqbal Asria CBE, Andrew Gosnay, Dato’ M. Faiz Azmi and David Stringer-Lamarre

Dat’ Anthony Cooper, BMS Chairman, gave a short welcome speech.
Speakers included:
Lord Sheikh of Cornhill, Co-Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Islamic Finance;
Dat’ M. Faiz Azmi, Chairman of PwC Malaysia and Global lead for PwC on Islamic Finance;
Andrew Gosnay, Head of Banking and Finance, Laytoms Solicitors LLP;
M Iqbal Asria CBE, Islamic Finance expert and Special Advisor on business and economic affairs to the Muslim Council of Britain.

After the discussion there was a vote of thanks by Martin Barrow, Director of Matheson & Co and Executive Committee member of BMS.

The evening was kindly hosted by PwC
Memorandum of Understanding between The British Malaysian Chamber of Commerce and The British Malaysian Society

The British Malaysian Chamber of Commerce ("BMCC") and The British Malaysian Society ("BMS") have concluded an agreement to establish reciprocal rights with a view to increasing the opportunities and benefits of members of both the BMCC and BMS.

This arrangement was initially proposed by Dato' Anthony Cooper, BMS Chairman, and accepted by Aurelia Silva, Executive Director of the BMCC, on behalf of the BMCC Board of Directors later that month.

The purpose of this proposal is to broaden the business and social community of BMCC and BMS members towards the common aim of fostering stronger relations between the UK and Malaysia.

The arrangement allows members of the BMS (either visiting or based in Malaysia) to attend events hosted by the BMCC in Kuala Lumpur and allows members of the BMCC (either visiting or based in the UK) to attend events hosted by the BMS in London.

Paid events organised by the BMCC and BMS will remain chargeable with the costs borne by the members attending. Free-to-attend events hosted by the BMCC and BMS are non-chargeable to the members but numbers may be limited if capacity is limited.

The BMCC and BMS will exchange marketing materials when needed to promote each other’s events.

BMS engagement with students

One of the key areas of focus this year for the Society is student engagement. Currently there are 17 student members and the Society aims to increase student membership in the coming year.

The Society has started to liaise and work with several student organisations and groups.

Discussions are underway with the Association of Malaysian Economists Undergraduates (AMEU) to develop a new arrangement. The reciprocal relationship aims to increase the opportunities and benefits of both members of the Society and AMEU.

Founded in September 2016, AMEU is a student-led organisation that serves as the representative of Malaysian economics students, both in Malaysia and overseas.

Their International Advisory Council boasts a group of prominent names including BMS President Sir Mark Moody-Stuart and Chairman Dato’ Anthony Cooper.

BMS supported the Malaysian Eid event at Goodenough College on 25 June 2017. The event was organised by three Malaysian members of the College: Pei Ann Yuh (also BMS member), Khairaun Nisa Mohamed Zabidi and Weng Fong Lim.

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Sultan Muhammad V installed as 15th Yang di-Pertuan Agong (King) The Malay Mail Online Monday April 24, 2017

Sultan Muhammad V takes the oath of installation, pledging to perform his duties as Malaysia’s 15th Yang di-Pertuan Agong. — Bernama pic

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia - "Daulat Tuanku (Long Live the King)!” Sultan Muhammad V was installed as the 15th Yang di-Pertuan Agong (King) at Istana Negara here today, for the next five years.

The installation ceremony, steeped in Royal Malay customs, marked the formal commencement of his tenure as the Supreme Head of the Federation which also reflects the stature of Constitutional Monarchy practised in the country.

Malaysia is one of 43 countries in the world that practice constitutional monarchy, with the rotation system in selecting a King being the only one of its kind in the world.

The sound of trumpets and the beating of drums by the Gendang Besar D’Raja Kelantan band reverberated in the Balaarong Seri (Throne Hall) of the national palace to the tune of ‘Raja Bertabah’ as soon as Sultan Muhammad V took his Oath of Installation.

This was then followed by the firing of a 21-gun salute and the playing of the national anthem “Negaraku” by the Royal Malaysian Air Force band.

Some 800 guests witnessed the colourful and glorious ceremony, including the Malay rulers and their consorts; the Prime Minister and the President of the Malay rulers; the Yang di-Pertuan Agong (King); the Speaker of the Duta Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and wife, Datin Seri Hamidah Khamis.

Also present were cabinet ministers, heads of government departments and foreign diplomats. — Bernama

Malaysia PM’s wife says gifted children need to be nurtured from young Malay Mail Online May 9, 2017

Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor delivers her speech during the launching of Permata Science Institute workshop at the Royal Society of London. Bernama pic

LONDON: Wife of Malaysia's Prime Minister, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, who is the patron of Permata, said most of Permata students were tutored by members of the Faculty of Science and Technology of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM).

Thus, the signing of a memorandum of understanding between UKM's Faculty of Science and Technology with Cambridge University’s Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology Department would benefit the Permata gifted students, she said at the signing of the MoU.

Rosmah also said that Cambridge's Prof Elizabeth Hall, who was visiting professor at the Permuta Pintar's Nobelist Mindset workshop held at UKM last September, had opened opportunities for the students to learn more about the STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) fields.

BERNAMA

http://www.themalaymailonline.com

UK to broaden ties with Malaysia post-Brexit, may not need FTA

By Eva Yung The Sun Daily April 6, 2017

KUALA LUMPUR: The UK, which aims to be more outward-looking post-Brexit, is exploring ways to deepen and broaden its relationship with Malaysia, which may not require a free trade agreement.

“We discussed this morning how we might work together to ensure that there is even greater openness. Perhaps that does not require any FTA to provide those opportunities,” UK Secretary of State for International Trade, Dr Liam Fox, told reporters at the “Malaysia and Britain, Partners in a post-Brexit World” panel discussion.

http://www.thesunday.my

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Chairman’s Report

The Chairman welcomed new corporate member, Coventry University Group, whose Head of Alumni and External Relations Coventry University London, Carole Still, was present.

He said student engagement efforts are led by the Deputy Chair and the Secretary to establish closer relationship with students and universities, adding discussions were underway with the Association of Malaysian Economics Undergraduates (AMEU) to develop a new arrangement. Further opportunities are also being explored with other student organisations, he said.

The Chairman announced the appointment of Mei Sim Lai as a second Deputy Chair who would succeed him as Chairman next year’s AGM. He also noted the retirement of three Executive Committee members (Dr John Breakeall, Julian Metcalfe and Dato’ Seri Johari Raslan) and thanked them for their services and support to the Society.

Members were reminded of BMS’ upcoming events including the Eid dinner set for end of the month, the BMS engagement with the Prime Minister and HE Vicki Treadell’s talk. The Chairman also highlighted three key events in the autumn: Merdeka Concert at St James’ Church, Annual Dinner at Inner Temple and Christmas Reception at House of Lords.

The Chairman concluded by thanking the President Sir Mark Moody-Stuart and the Vice Presidents, Sir David Greenaway and Lord Powell for their tremendous support to the Society. He noted Sir David’s retirement as Chairman of the Russell Group of Universities in September 2017. He also thanked members of the Executive Committee.

Treasurer’s Report

Accounts for 2016 have been signed and loaded onto the website. 2016 was a year for growth for membership, especially younger members. To date BMS has 13 corporate members, 126 individual members and 16 student members.

The Treasurer highlighted our healthy financial position with more than adequate reserves, which put us on a sound footing for the longer term. We have managed to run a programme of successful events with low costs due to our Chairman’s relationship with The Traveller’s Club, as well as the support from corporate members who provided free premises for some events.

The Treasurer also noted that the website maintenance had been smoothly transferred to a new service provider. He also thanked Simon Hoy of Anova who are our auditors.

The Treasurer proposed that Anova be re-appointed as Auditors for 2017 and this was approved.

Current Executive Committee:

Dato’ Anthony Cooper (Chairman)
Zehan Albakri-Verden (Deputy Chair)
Mer Siim Lai (Deputy Chair)
Dr Eric Suckling (Hon Secretary)
Peter Farrar (Hon Treasurer)
Stephanie Cheong (Events Organiser)
Martin Barrow
Albert Bong
Jason McIlvennan
Dato’ Zarir Cama
Dato’ Neville Green
Haliza Hashim-Doyle
Azimah Heuson
Michael Thompson
Raihliyah Yabha
New Corporate member - The Coventry University Group

The Coventry University Group has become the newest corporate member of The British Malaysian Society.

Also home to The Confucius Institute, 11 research centres, the Serious-Games institute, and an Enterprise Hub, Coventry University supports the city of Coventry through education, employment, enterprise and research.

In June 2017, Coventry University was awarded Gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework, the highest quality award in the UK. It was also awarded “HEI of the Year” and “Social Enterprise Champion”, by the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

Coventry University London, launched in October 2010, has a student base of 1,600 undergraduates and post graduates (2015/16), and an alumni community to date of 4,000.

The 75% international student population represents 12% of the Coventry Group’s International student population. With bespoke degrees in business, finance, fashion, marketing and tourism, students have access to a full Bloomberg financial trading suite, fashion studio and an enterprise hub.

The Enterprise Hub provides a City of London registered base for graduates to launch their businesses through Tier 1 visas.

To date, Coventry University London has seen 12 Tier 1 Graduate entrepreneur businesses launched with a further 18 in progress.

CU (Coventry University College) with sites in Barking & Dagenham, Coventry and Scarborough serving their local communities, offers a range of vocational courses. Designed with flexible learning options and no end of year exams, they provide a high quality learning solution and lower tuition fees than other comparable institutes, helping to make higher education affordable and local.

Award Winning: holder of the Queen’s award for Enterprise in recognition of its international growth and success, ranked 12th in the UK, voted Top Modern University Times 2018 and rated Gold in the 2017 Teaching Excellence Framework, the highest quality award in the UK for outstanding teaching, learning and outcomes.

Coventry University is proud of its position as a top modern university less than 50 years old; www.coventry.ac.uk

Art Exhibition by Malaysian artist, Yusof Ghani, at Asia House

“Segerak VI - Transcendent Figures”

LONDON: Segerak is the first UK solo show of Malaysian artist Yusof Ghani, one of the biggest names in Southeast Asian art. A total of 15 paintings are on display at this exhibition, with every piece having its own unique story about life in Asia.

Segerak is a series of oil paintings from 2003 in which Ghani uses light to reinterpreta philosophical point of view. Frieze sculptures on the walls of ancient Hindu sites, including Angkor Wat and Borobudur, are other key influences for the Segerak series.

The exhibition was organised by Tapak Gallery at Asia House from 5 – 7 April 2017.

Malaysian Eid event at Goodenough College, 25 June 2017.

The Secretary and the Deputy Chair lead all student engagement efforts, and welcome ideas for projects and approaches that will provide opportunities for the Society to develop closer relations with students and universities.

Goodenough College is a residential college for international postgraduate students and also an educational charity with the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Companies Act 2016: Transforming Malaysia’s corporate landscape

Mida Newsletter May

The Companies Act 2016 (Act 777) (“CA 2016”) came into force on 31 January 2017. This new CA 2016 replaced the 1965 Act which has been in operation for over 50 years.

The workings towards CA 2016 took over a decade’s worth of review, consultation and discussion with regulatory, professional and industry bodies.

The implementation of CA 2016 is intended to increase the ease of doing business in Malaysia. Incorporation procedures for companies will be simplified. This in turn will bring significant cost savings for businesses through the creation of a more business-friendly environment.

The CA 2016 is to be implemented in stages. The first phase of the CA 2016 commenced on 31 January 2017.

Section 241 relating to the requirement for company secretaries to register with the Registrar, and Division 8 of Part III relating to corporate rescue mechanisms on a corporate voluntary arrangement and judicial management, have yet to be implemented.

Also enforced on January 31 was the Companies Regulations 2017 to support the implementation of the Companies Act 2016.

With this, companies have a mechanism to lodge documents with the Companies Commission of Malaysia (CCM) and their related fees.

www.mida.gov.my

Screening of the film “The remarkable Miss North”

The British Malaysian Society and the Sarawak Association jointly screened a docu-drama film titled “The Remarkable Miss North” at Royal Over-Seas League, London, on Wednesday 28 June.

The film was introduced by Jack Andrews and Lavinia Warner, the Executive Producers of the BBC 4 documentary.

Actress Emilia Fox presented the 60 minute documentary on the life and work of the rebel Victorian painter, Marianne North.

Fired by her passion to paint and search for exotic and unknown plants, Marianne travelled alone to 17 countries in 5 continents.

Her legacy is kept alive today by the gallery she bequeathed to Kew Gardens. It includes 833 of her extraordinary paintings out of a total of over 1,000 painted in just 15 years. Emilia travels in Marianne’s footsteps to Sarawak.

Produced and edited by The British Malaysian Society

www.thebritishmalaysiansociety.org