BMS AGM and President’s Reception

The Society’s AGM took place on Thursday 21 June 2018 at The Oriental Club, London.

In his address he said that although the BMS was a non-political society he had written to Tun Dr Mahathir congratulating him on his election as Prime Minister. He said in 2017 the society had continued to be very active and hosted 14 events, including two jointly with other organisations. He added that as that year was the 60th Anniversary of Merdeka, more emphasis was put on education and cultural events, the highlight of which was the Merdeka Concert held at St Lawrence Jewry, London, which had been Revi Pillai, Tan Sri Dato’ Dr Munir Majid’s time. The concert was inaugurated some years ago during Dato’ Zed Cama’s time.

The Chairman concluded by congratulating the new members of the Executive Committee on their election, and wishing incoming Chairman, Mei Sim Lai, and the new Executive Committee every success in meeting the challenges ahead.

He thanked Malaysian High Commissioner, HE Dato’ Ahmad Rasidi Haji, for his support of the Society during his tenure in London. He also thanked HE Vicki Treadell, British High Commissioner in Kuala Lumpur, who had also been supportive of the Society.

The Chairman said that he had now completed three and a half most enjoyable years as BMS Chairman and thanked the President, Sir Mark Moody-Stuart, for his support.

Message from the retiring Chairman—an appreciation

The quarterly BMS Newsletter was inaugurated some years ago during Dato’ Zed Cama’s time. The Editor since the beginning has been Revi Pillai, who previously worked at the Malaysian High Commission. Revi also produces the ASEAN Digest. In my view our Newsletter is indispensable reading for BMS members and friends and I am most appreciative of all the work that Revi has voluntarily put in to produce something of such a high standard. THANK YOU REVI.

Anthony Cooper

EVENTS

Thursday 12 July
Eid celebratory dinner
Venue: Satay House, Sale Place, London
Time: 6.30pm to 9.30pm

Monday 10 September
Talk by Tunku ‘Abidin Mahirz
“The New Malaysia - the first 125 days”
Venue: TBA
Time: 6.00pm to 8.30pm

Thursday 20 September
Talk by Dato’ Dr Kim Tan
“A Malaysian social entrepreneur in a global arena”
Venue: Coventry University, London.
Time: 6.00pm – 8.30pm

Friday 26 October
Society’s Annual Dinner
Venue: Inner Temple, London
Time: 7.00pm to 10.30pm

Keep up to date with our events by looking at our website: www.thebritishmalaysiansociety.org

Talk by HE Vicki Treadell


The High Commissioner gave an insight into the general election and what happened. With the election over, and the formation of a new government under Pakatan Harapan, there was a new era, a new beginning in Malaysia. She also gave her views on the sudden change and its implications for Malaysian society and culture. On bi-lateral relationships she was optimistic as to the future of relations with the UK. She also touched on Dr Mahathir’s revival of his ‘Looking East Policy.’

Talk by Tan Sri Dato’ Dr Munir Majid - “Malaysia Post GE14: an Economic and Political Assessment”

The British Malaysian Society, in association with Coventry University London, organised a talk, “Malaysia Post GE14: an Economic and Political Assessment” by Tan Sri Dato’ Dr Munir Majid at Coventry University London on Wednesday 13 June 2018.

Tan Sri Dato’ Dr Munir Majid (left) with Anthony Cooper at the talk.

Dr Munir was candid with his analysis. On the economy he said Malaysia was on a good footing. The former government under Dato’ Seri Najib Razak had steered the economy to what it is today.

The change in government was due to Dato’ Najib’s 1MDB scandal more than Pakatan Harapan’s strategy, and the people were wary and tired of the corruption infecting the Najib government. Dr Munir Majid added there was calm during the transition.

He also gave a brief overview of the many Government Linked Companies (GLCs). It looked as if the new government was buying with the idea of privatising the GLCs.

He also said in jest that current Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad would not go back to his ‘Buy British Last’ days.

Talk by Anthony Cooper

Anthony Cooper from the beginning has been Revi Pillai, Tan Sri Dato’ Dr Munir Majid’s time. The concert was inaugurated some years ago during Dato’ Zed Cama’s time. The Editor since the beginning has been Revi Pillai, who previously worked at the Malaysian High Commission. Revi also produces the ASEAN Digest. In my view our Newsletter is indispensable reading for BMS members and friends and I am most appreciative of all the work that Revi has voluntarily put in to produce something of such a high standard. THANK YOU REVI.

Anthony Cooper

Talk by HE Vicki Treadell


The High Commissioner gave an insight into the general election and what happened. With the election over, and the formation of a new government under Pakatan Harapan, there was a new era, a new beginning in Malaysia. She also gave her views on the sudden change and its implications for Malaysian society and culture. On bi-lateral relationships she was optimistic as to the future of relations with the UK. She also touched on Dr Mahathir’s revival of his ‘Looking East Policy.’

Talk by Tan Sri Dato’ Dr Munir Majid - “Malaysia Post GE14: an Economic and Political Assessment”

The British Malaysian Society, in association with Coventry University London, organised a talk, “Malaysia Post GE14: an Economic and Political Assessment” by Tan Sri Dato’ Dr Munir Majid at Coventry University London on Wednesday 13 June 2018.

Tan Sri Dato’ Dr Munir Majid (left) with Anthony Cooper at the talk.

Dr Munir was candid with his analysis. On the economy he said Malaysia was on a good footing. The former government under Dato’ Seri Najib Razak had steered the economy to what it is today.

The change in government was due to Dato’ Najib’s 1MDB scandal more than Pakatan Harapan’s strategy, and the people were wary and tired of the corruption infecting the Najib government. Dr Munir Majid added there was calm during the transition.

He also gave a brief overview of the many Government Linked Companies (GLCs). It looked as if the new government was buying with the idea of privatising the GLCs.

He also said in jest that current Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad would not go back to his ‘Buy British Last’ days.
The UK:ASEAN Futures Debate - Is a ‘Global Britain’ relevant to a rising ASEAN?

With the world moving deeper into what many have called the ‘Asian Century’, the University of Nottingham and the British Malaysian Society held a joint event in London on 24 April which saw a panel of industry experts debate on the relevance of a global Britain to a rising ASEAN.

The event brought together attendees representing embassies and high commissions of ASEAN countries, government departments, UK universities and leading companies.

Panel (L-R): H E Sayakane Sisouvang, Professor Graham Kendall, Sherry Madera, Dr Gerard Lyons and Cindy Rampersaud.

The panelists were: HE Sayakane Sisouvang, Lao Ambassador to the UK, Professor Graham Kendall, Provost and CEO, University of Nottingham Malaysia, Sherry Madera, Special Adviser for Asia at the City of London Corporation (Chair), Dr Gerard Lyons, economist and board member of Bank of China (UK) and Cindy Rampersaud, Senior Vice President for BTEC and Apprenticeship, Pearson.

HE Sisouvang said ASEAN’s external relations policy is cooperation with nearby countries, including on security, and has New Zealand as a dialogue partner.

He said the UK should look at ASEAN after leaving the European Union. He suggested that the UK should sign an FTA with ASEAN after leaving the EU.

Dr Lyons said that Britain was already a global player as it is a member of several international organisations: NATO, UN Security Council, WHO, World Bank and IMF.

One of the panelists commented ‘ASEAN talks regionally, but acts nationally’.

---

Tun Dr Mahathir sworn in as Malaysia’s 7th Prime Minister

Malaysia media Thursday May 10, 2018

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia - Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad was sworn in as Malaysia’s seventh Prime Minister on Thursday night (May 10), after former premier Datuk Seri Najib Razak said that he accepted the will of the people that handed Barisan Nasional (BN) a shock defeat which ended the UMKO-led pact’s six decades in power.

PH and its ally Parti Warisan Sabah won 121 seats in the 222-seat federal Parliament in the keenly contested May 9 general election (GE14), while BN secured 79 seats.

Tun Dr Mahathir gave the assurance that his administration would be business-friendly. “Malaysia has been a trading nation. You don’t quarrel with your market,” he said.

British High Commissioner pays courtesy call on new Malaysia PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia - British High Commissioner HE Vicki Treadell (left, above) paid a courtesy call on PM Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Friday May 18 2018

Education, politics, reform, partnership, collaboration and the strong UK - Malaysia relationship were some of the topics discussed.

Farewell dinner for Malaysian High Commissioner HE Dato’ Ahmad Rasidi Hazizi

HE Dato’ Ahmad Rasidi Hazizi addressing guests.

Jonathan talked about his research into the Malaysian Volunteers and how he dealt with enquiries.

Three short films produced by the British High Commission in Kuala Lumpur for the 60th anniversary of Merdeka were also shown. British High Commissioner HE Vicki Treadell made the introduction on the films.

BMS member Michael Thompson CMG OBE also gave his comments in the documentary as did a number of Malaysian personalities.

---

Malaysia Hall Canteen - home away from home

Malaysia Hall Canteen reopened after renovation and under new management on Monday April 7, 2018. It is a place Malaysians in the UK call home away from home.

---

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: info@thebritishmalaysiansociety.org

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: @BritishMscanSoc