The Executive Committee held its first Meeting under new Chairman, Anthony Cooper, at The Malaysian High Commission, London, on 8 January 2015.

Three new members, Haliza Hashim-Doyle, Mei Sim Lai and Jason Brooke, were welcomed to the Executive Committee.

President

Sir Mark Moody-Stuart

The Executive Committee

Anthony Cooper (Chairman)  
Zehan Albakri-Verden (Deputy Chair)  
Albert Bong (Hon Secretary)  
Peter Farrar (Hon Treasurer)  
Martin Barrow  
Dr John Breakell  
Michael Thompson  
Jason Brooke  
Zarir Cama (Past Chairman)  
Neville Green  
Haliza Hashim-Doyle  
Azimah Heus  
Lai Mei Sim  
Johan Raslan  
Rahiyah Yahya

FORTHCOMING BMS EVENTS

2 March  
Chinese New Year Lunch

30 March  
Talk by Wan Saiful Wan Jan, CEO of IDEAS on ‘Moderate Malaysia’

April

Ray Kyles, recently retired Acting British High Commissioner to Malaysia on ‘A Diplomatic Perspective’ (Provisional)

June  
AGM and President’s Reception

Members will be advised of full details, and how to book/pay, by flyers sent out nearer the date.

OTHER EVENTS

Other events to which members will be invited, including those organised by our close associate, OMEC, and Malaysian government, including MIDA and MATRADE.

See our website for up-to-date details www.thebritishmalaysiansociety.org/

OTHER MALAYSIAN EVENTS IN LONDON

3 - 5 March  
Ecobuild 2015 at ExCel London. It is an exhibition on building and construction materials. There will be a mini Malaysia Pavilion with participating companies from Malaysia.

8 - 11 Sept.  
Offshore Europe to be held in Aberdeen, Scotland. There will be a Malaysia Pavilion in this oil and gas exhibition, which is considered one of the largest oil and gas exhibitions in Europe.

We wish all our members and friends  
A Happy and Prosperous New Year

Rory Stewart MP (left) with Zarir Cama  
The Society’s Annual Dinner was held at the Inner Temple on 28 October 2014. Sixty members attended the function.

The special guest speaker was Rory Stewart MP, Chairman of the Defence Select Committee and Conservative MP for Penrith and The Border. He is also a well-known author and broadcaster. He lived in Malaysia as a boy and his parents have a long association with Malaysia, working there for many years. He talked about “Britain and the world”.

Protecting the rights of children in Malaysia

Sharmila Sekaran (left) and Neville Green  
Sharmila Sekaran, Chairperson, Voice of the Children (Malaysia) gave a talk ‘Protecting the rights of children in Malaysia’, at The Travellers Club, Pall Mall on 2 October. Issues included forgotten children and statelessness and ‘foreignness’ amongst the children.

After studying law in the UK, and becoming a member of the Middle Temple, Sharmila returned to Malaysia where she practised law for many years before joining a commercial organisation. In 2011 Sharmila returned to practice, becoming a partner in Jerald Gomez and Associates. She is the co-founder and Chairperson of Voice of the Children, an advocacy group with a mission to promote law and reform to ensure that every child in Malaysia is protected and is no longer at risk of violation. 

http://voc.org.my/blog/
Diversity Malaysia Art

H.E Dato’ Ahmad Rasidi Hazizzi High Commissioner of Malaysia in London (left) with Tony Devenish, Councillor for Knightsbridge and Belgravia.

On 26th November 2014, BMS supported a new initiative by Matrade to promote Malaysian Art internationally. The exhibition, Diversity at the Galleria in Pall Mall (from 25 Nov- 5 Dec) featured works from 10 of Malaysia’s renowned contemporary artists. Over the last 10 years with the expanding Asian economies, the Asian art market has seen huge growth and is now seen as serious business for investors.

Chairman’s Christmas Reception

The Chairman’s Christmas Reception was held at The Travellers Club, Pall Mall, London, on 10 December 2014.

About 70 members and friends of BMS attended the function

COME BACK TO ME

Piano Arrangements of Great Film Music

A new piano CD of film music ‘Come Back To Me’ by Jane Ng (piano), which has recently been released by Albion Records, with popular film music including Gone with the Wind, Titanic, Lord of the Rings etc. This disc is Albion’s first foray into film music and features the main themes from twenty much-loved films. Composers include Ennio Morricone, John Williams, James Horner, Maurice Jarre and Richard Addinsell.

The title ‘Come Back To Me’ is taken from a line in the film Somewhere in Time with magical music by John Barry. Jane Ng is a member of BMS.

MITI minister at Malaysian High Commission London

Malaysia Investment Development Authority (MIDA) in London, organised a Dinner & Networking between The Minister of International Trade & Industry (MITI)-Dato’ Sri Mustapha Mohamed and Friends of Malaysia in the UK at the High Commission of Malaysia, London on 21 October 2014. More than 100 people attended the event.

The Minister earlier visited Spain, Germany and Italy.

The Overseas Masters Winter Piano Academy (OMWPA) 2014

Front row (left to right) - KuanN Jing Xun ; Keu Qi Jing ; Yeo Wei Le (Austin) ; Tan Tzu Kuang Back row: Bobby Chen (left) and Anthony Cooper

Photo: Studio M (Stephanie Cheong)

The Overseas Masters Winter Piano Academy (OMWPA) was established in December 2010 by Malaysian concert pianist Bobby Chen, and takes place every two years at the prestigious Yehudi Menuhin School in Surrey, England, one of the top musical schools in the world. Bobby was a former student at the Yehudi Menuhin School (1991-1998).

OMWPA course participants receive individual piano lessons, group classes, lectures, evening recitals given by some of the tutors, and a ‘London’ experience with visits to famous London museums and music shops, and tickets for concerts at the Royal Albert Hall and the Royal Festival Hall. At their graduation each student performs at the Gala Concert on a full size handmade concert grand piano from Italy.

Course tutors are all music professors attached professionally to the Royal College of Music, Royal Academy of Music, Royal Northern College of Music, Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama, Guildhall School of Music & Drama, Trinity Laban, Chetham's School of Music, and the Yehudi Menuhin School.

For the 3rd OMWPA in December 2014 The British Malaysian Society has provided 2 partial scholarships to two selected Malaysian Students.

Anthony Cooper presented the certificates to the four partial scholarship winners at the Gala Concert, at the Menuhin Hall, on Tuesday 23 December 2014. The winners were Kuan Jing Xun ; Keu Qi Jing ; Yeo Wei Le (Austin) ; Tan Tzu Kuang.

BMS Books Project

Scene from the Peer Assisted Learning Programme & BMS Books being used

The BMS Books for Malaysia collection of 2013 was put to good use in Malaysia in 2014 by Brighton Education on their new Peer Assisted Learning (PAL) Programme. It was discovered that if a more able or older peer read with and corrected a less able peer they could notice and correct 88% of mistakes.

Books donated by the BMS were used in the programme. The children using the books would read the book with a peer, and then reflect on the book by way of a reading diary. When completing the diary first the children would rate the book by choosing one of three ‘smiley faces’, a happy face, a neutral face and an unhappy face. Next, the children would write down new words learned and finally, the peer could give a comment, such as ‘Well Done’ or “Good Job’.

The BMS will be launching a book collection for 2015 in the spring - full details will be in the April Newsletter

Join BMS

With a new and improved benefit structure for British Malaysian Society members it has never been such a great time to join! Whatever your connection to Malaysia there is likely to be something for you within the society. Members who have worked and lived in Malaysia and have interesting anecdote to tell, please send short write-up to: newsletter@thebritishmalaysiansociety.org
**Floods in Malaysia**

The Malay Mail Online
December 26, 2014
KUALA LUMPUR - The number of flood victims in seven states has now reached 119,087 people with Kelantan having the highest number of victims with 45,467 people.

Kelantan is facing one of the worst floods in decades.

In Terengganu, the number of people evacuated due to floods continued to rise to 34,884.

In Pahang, the number of flood evacuees dropped to 32,380.

In Johor, flood evacuees taking shelter at 10 relief centres numbered 537 people from 130 families.

In Kedah, the number of flood victims dropped, leaving only 28 in Perlis, the number of flood victims at the relief centre.

In Brunei Darussalam have introduced such an initiative to ease the movement of people in extreme conditions.

In Perak, the number of flood victims remained at 6,119.

http://www.themalaymailonline.com

**Special immigration lane for ASEAN visitors**

The Malay Mail Online
November 28, 2014
KUALA LUMPUR - Malaysia will make the special immigration lane for ASEAN nationals more prominent at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) when the country assumes ASEAN chairmanship starting January 1, 2015.

Dubbed the ASEAN Immigration Lane, the lane was introduced as part of the ASEAN Economic Community’s (AEC) initiative to ease the movement of the 10-member bloc visitors to Malaysia.

Currently, Singapore, Thailand and Brunei Darussalam have implemented such an initiative.

http://www.themalaymailonline.com/

**Memorial Service**

A Memorial Service for the previous British High Commissioner to Malaysia, Simon Featherstone CMG, will be held at 2pm on Thursday 16th April, 2015 at St Mary’s Anglican Cathedral, Kuala Lumpur. All are welcome.

**New Executive Committee Members**

**Jason Brooke**

Jason is the grandson of the last Rajah Muda of Sarawak and Director of the Brooke Trust. As director of the charity he has championed a number of projects in recent years in partnership with the Malaysian Federal Government, the Sarawak State Government, local communities in Sarawak, and major institutions in UK.

Jason has worked on Television and Radio documentaries, news features and recently a feature film on the Brooke Raj over the course of his 7 year involvement.

At the British Museum he works in professional services and acts as Project Advisor to the Sarawak Museum Campus Development Project. He is a life member and committee member of the Sarawak Association.

Jason also serves as Honorary Curator of the Brooke Gallery at Fort Margherita. He is currently preparing the launch of the Brooke Scholarship Fund in 2015.

**Haliza Hashim-Doyle**

Haliza is a News and Current Affairs Correspondent for TV3 Malaysia and freelance writer based in London. She has produced short documentaries for TV3 and directed corporate videos for several business organisations.

She also writes for numerous Malaysian and UK publications and co-authored a photography book.

Her media work extends to doing voice-overs for BBC Radio drama and a Malay Language course as well as doing workshops on journalism.

Haliza is a member of London Correspondents' Service and Pan Asian Women Association.

**Mei Sim Lai**

Mei Sim Lai has lived in London since 1970. In 1979 she became the first female and Chinese partner of Pridie Brewster (now part of BDO UK). Since 2007 Mei Sim has been running her own boutique firm of Chartered Accountants LaiPeters & Co.

She has considerable Board experience having served as a Chairman, Director, Trustee or Member of several public, private, voluntary and charitable organisations since 1991. She is a past winner of the Asian Women of Achievement Awards and the TIAW Award for 100 women in the world who make a difference.

In 2004 Mei Sim was appointed OBE for services to Equal Opportunities and since 2006 she has been one of The Queen’s Representatives in Greater London and has responsibility for London Borough of Brent.