



The British Malaysian Society

Newsletter – Winter 2016 - 17

Chairman's Christmas Reception



BMS president Sir Mark Moody-Stuart (left) and Chairman Anthony Cooper addressing guests at the Society Chairman's Christmas Reception.

Photo – Stephanie Cheong

The Chairman's Christmas Reception was held at The Travellers Club, Pall Mall, London on 13 December 2016. Over 50 members and guests attended the reception.

BMS Charities Donations

KUALA LUMPUR On 14 November the BMS Chairman and Secretary presented cheques to Rev Elisha Satvinder, Founder and Principal of Dignity Foundation for Children, and Dr Sylvia McCarthy, Medical Director of Hospis Malaysia, in Kuala Lumpur. These were two of the Malaysian charities which the BMS agreed to support from funds raised at their Annual Dinner in October 2016, much of which was proceeds from the auction of two business class tickets from London to Kuala Lumpur generously donated by Malaysia Airlines.

At the Annual Dinner, held at The Parliament Chamber, The Inner Temple, London, on Monday 3 October 2016, an auction and raffle raised over £6,000, the proceeds going towards the Malaysian charities and partial scholarships to two students from Malaysia to attend Bobby Chen's academy class at the Menuhin School in December.

FORTHCOMING BMS EVENTS

Wednesday 25 January

Joint event with IoD City "Economic outlook for 2017"

Venue: Warwick Business School
17th Floor The Shard, London
Time: 6.00pm – 8.30pm-

Wednesday 1 February

Chinese New Year lunch,
Maximini,
31-33 Sussex Place,
London W2 2TH
Time: 12 noon to 2.30pm

Monday 20 March

Film and Talk on "Searching for Ali Wallace" Joint event with the Sarawak Association (Note this will be free to BMS members but only if booked through BMS)
Venue: Royal Over-Seas League,
Park Place, St. James's Street,
London SW1A 1LR
Time: 6.00 – 8.30pm

Monday 3 April

Talk on Islamic Finance by Dato' Faiz Azmi, Chairman of PwC Malaysia.
This is a joint event with IoD City.
Venue: TBA
Time: 6.00pm to 8.30pm

Malaysian Reunion lunch

Sunday 19 March

Curry tiffin lunch (not organised by BMS and enquiries should be directed to Helen Jones at helenmckeag@gmail.com)
Venue: Oriental Club,
Stratford Place, London W1C 1ES
Time: 10.30am to 4.00pm

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

Membership subscriptions: 2017

Membership subscriptions became due on 1 January. For those of you who pay by bank standing order, are student members or first joined after 1 July 2016, you need to do nothing. Members who are due to pay for 2017 should have received an email requesting their payment by 31 March, after which date membership will lapse. If any member needs any further information please contact the Treasurer.

Kelantan Sultan takes oath of office as Malaysia's 15th Yang di-Pertuan Agong (King)



Sultan Muhammad V of Kelantan begins reign as 15th Yang di-Pertuan Agong (King) for a five-year term - Bernama picture

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia - The Sultan of Kelantan, Sultan Muhammad V, today took the oath of office as the 15th Yang di-Pertuan Agong (King) at Istana Negara

The Sultan of Perak, Sultan Nazrin Shah, also took the oath of office as the Timbalan Yang di-Pertuan Agong (Deputy King)

Their Majesties were elected by the Conference of Rulers at its 243rd (Special) Meeting at Istana Negara on October 14, and will reign for five years from today.

Sultan Muhammad V, 47, succeeds the Sultan of Kedah, Sultan Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah, who completed his reign as the 14th Yang di-Pertuan Agong yesterday.

— Bernama

<http://www.themalaymailonline.com>

Talk by Andrew Barber: "Malaysia- the outlook for 2017"



Andrew Barber gave a talk "Malaysia – the outlook for 2017" hosted by Laytons at their More London Riverside offices on Wednesday 19 October 2016.

Andrew gave a deep insight on the current political and economic situation and the outlook for Malaysia in 2017. Andrew is a consultant based in Kuala Lumpur and a former diplomat who worked for the British High Commission there.

His company produces a monthly topical political and economic reports with regular updates on security issues in Malaysia.

*We wish BMS members
and friends a
Happy New Year*

British Malaysian Society Partial Scholarship recipients at OMWPA



(From left) BMS Chairman Anthony Cooper, recipients Yap Xin Wei and Tan Jing Ern.
Photo – Stephanie Cheong

The 4th Overseas Masters Winter Piano Academy (OMWPA) took place from 13 to 23 December 2016 at the Yehudi Menuhin School in Surrey. The OMWPA was started in December 2010, and takes place biennially. This year's academy was the fourth since founding.

One of those who was inspired and benefited from the school is pianist Bobby Chen, who is also the founder of OMWPA. Starting with only Malaysian students in 2010, Chen said he would like to see the participation of music students from other countries for his future workshops.

There were 27 students this year, coming from Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam, and the faculty this year included some prominent figures.

One of OMWPA's most popular features is the London whole day cultural tour, which brings all the participants to various London museums and music shops, and gives them all an Asian lunch and supper, with the day finishing at the Royal Albert Hall with a Christmas concert performed by a full orchestra and choir

The two Malaysian recipients of the BMS partial scholarships this year were Tan Jing Ern (10 years old) and Yap Xin Wei (11 years old). Just before coming to OMWPA this year, Tan Jing Ern performed in the Elgar Room at the Royal Albert Hall as a result of her winning an international music competition.

The British Malaysian Society first awarded partial scholarships to two students two years ago, each receiving £750. "We will continue to support participants of OMWPA. This is indeed a wonderful effort by Bobby Chen," said BMS chairman Dato' Anthony Cooper, who attended the gala concert with BMS Events Organiser, Stephanie Cheong.

The next OMWPA will be held in 2018 and Chen is hoping to get as many talents over for this once-in-a-lifetime experience. "There are many talented students in Malaysia, and they need to be given the opportunity and the exposure," Chen said

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

More accomplishments await Malaysia in 2017, Malaysia PM says

Malay Mail Online Sunday 31 December 2016

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak admitted today that 2016 has been a rollercoaster year but asserted that his government succeeded in steering the country out of troubled waters even as other economies were buffeted by the headwinds.

In his 2017 new year message today, Najib said Malaysia's stable economic growth amid a volatile global market had earned the country praise from the International Monetary Fund.

He urged Malaysians to take pride in the year's achievements and be more confident of future accomplishments in the year ahead.

"We have kept the budget deficit, inflation and unemployment low, and the resilience we have been building in our economy has seen us through times of global turbulence. Our economic plan is working.

"Our estimated growth rate of 4.3-4.5 per cent for this year is one that developed countries in Europe and North America can only dream of," he said in a statement.

He also assured Malaysians of his administration's commitment to ease the economic burdens faced by low-income families

He also called on the public to refrain from believing false news reports and smear campaigns targeted at his leadership and administration.

On the international front, Najib said that Malaysia will continue to play a leading role in championing "global issues that matter".

The prime minister highlighted the excellent sportsmanship shown by both the Malaysian Paralympics and Olympics teams at the Games held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil this year.

He noted that their performances had united Malaysians of all backgrounds, adding that it can be the impetus to deepen the bond of citizens to strive for the country's progress

"That is who we must be as we look to the future, to our 2050 National Transformation policy (TN50) and the nation we aspire to be by the middle of this century," he said.
<http://www.themalaymailonline.com>

Malaysia DPM – UK five-day working visit

New Straits Times Online



Malaysia Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi undertook a working visit to the United Kingdom from Nov 7 to 11.

His visit was to further strengthen bilateral cooperation between the two countries, as well as to bolster working relations, particularly with the newly-appointed UK Home Secretary, Amber Rudd.

The visit afforded both sides the opportunity to enhance cooperation in areas of security cooperation, mainly on counter-terrorism, Brexit, the Global Movement of Moderates and immigration-related matters.

Part of Zahid's itinerary included delivering a special lecture at the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies entitled "De-rooting Radicalism and Extremism

He also held a dialogue session with UK business leaders and met with the Malaysian community and students in London

<http://www.nst.com.my/>

Tourism Malaysia at World Travel Market London



Minister of Tourism and Culture Malaysia, Dato' Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz led a delegation to promote Malaysia as a premier tourist destination at the World Travel Market (WTM) 2016, 7-9 November at ExCel Docklands, London.

Dato' Seri Nazri officiated the opening of the Malaysia Pavilion, followed by a Malaysia Evening cocktail event later in the evening

State tourism agencies from Selangor, Johor, Sabah, Sarawak, Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya and Kedah also promoted their top and potential tourism products to the trade visitors.

WTM, deemed as the most important travel fair in the European market, is the main platform for Malaysia to promote its tourism offerings and introduce new and upcoming tourist attractions to British and European travellers.

Between January and August 2016 Malaysia received a total of 278,342 tourist arrivals from the UK, which is an increase of 2.3% compared to the same period in the previous year.

Malaysian film - Road to Nationhood



Photo – Stephanie Cheong

BMS members greatly enjoyed a showing of the Malaysian film "Road to Nationhood" courtesy of CIMB and PNB at PNB's London office on 30 November.

CIMB London in collaboration with ASTRO produced the highly-acclaimed two-part historical documentary-film that traced Malaya's journey towards independence and eventually the founding of Malaysia. Inspired by the rich historical contents and stories derived from a book of the same title by the New Straits Times Press Group Publications, this masterpiece features never before seen archive and footage from sources otherwise mostly forgotten, revived through advanced and cutting-edge visual effects.

The documentary brought to life untold stories of the founding fathers - such as Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra, Tun Tan Cheng Lock, Tun V.T. Sambanthan and Mr. Lee Kuan Yew - as told by close associates, family and friends. It also featured personal and political perspectives of the struggles, including the bitter opposition to Malaysia's formation.

The documentary also brought forward voices of monumental figures like Tunku Khadijah Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra, Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, Tengku Tan Sri Razeleigh Hamzah, Tan Siok Choo, Zainah Anwar and many more.

The film was also screened at Malaysia Hall on 3 December.

Borneo Hornbill Festival London 2016



The Sarawak/Sabah Heritage Society Kuala Lumpur hosted the grand final of Borneo Hornbill Festival 2016 at Asia House on 4 December.

The participants from different ethnic groups in Sarawak and Sabah competed for the title Miss Borneo and Mr Borneo 2016.

The event gave opportunities to taste the traditional rice wine and chicken cooked in bamboo. There were also cultural dances and traditional music.

Delicious and exotic Sarawak/Sabah cuisines such as the manok pansuh, pucuk ubi tumbuk, sup terung Dayak, nasi bungkus daun and many other delicacies were served.

The event was an occasion to witness the unique culture of Sarawak/Sabah.