



## **The British Malaysian Society**

### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held at the Members' Dining Room, Guildhall Club, Guildhall, City of London Corporation, Gresham Street, London EC2P 2EJ at 6.00 pm on Tuesday 25 June 2019**

#### **1. Apologies**

There were 49 attendees. Apologies noted from Honorary Treasurer Chris Neoh and Exco members Zehan Albakri-Verden, David Stringer-Lamarre, Stephanie Cheong and Rahiyah Yahya who were not able to attend.

#### **2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 21 June 2018**

The minutes of last year's meeting were approved.

#### **3. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### **4. Chairman's Report and updates from Executive Committee (Exco)**

The Chairman, Mei Sim Lai welcomed all those attending.

2018 had been an active year during which the BMS had held over 20 events to date with a balanced mix of business, cultural and educational theme (a list of events had been circulated prior to the meeting). The Chairman highlighted the successful delegation to Kuala Lumpur in January 2019, in particular the important connections established with high-level contacts in Malaysia. On 20 June 2019, the BMS hosted a highly successful and well attended Welcome reception for the new Malaysian High Commissioner, HE Datuk Mohamad Sadik Kethergany and look forward to continuing the good relationship and exploring collaboration opportunities. Former Chairman, Dato Anthony Cooper, concurred and emphasised the importance of engaging more with businesses and students.

The Chairman noted significant efforts in student engagement including the good relationship established with UKEC, an umbrella body for Malaysian student societies across the UK. New initiatives will be explored to further boost student interest in the BMS.

Exco Member and Membership subgroup lead, Christopher Scott, provided an update on BMS membership (a report had been circulated prior to the meeting). The BMS has diverse membership and the Executive Committee will continue efforts in recruiting new members given the large Malaysian diaspora in the UK.

In terms of Marketing and Communications, Honorary Secretary, Dr Euvian Tan, shared progress on the BMS website revamp project. The new website is now live and further development will continue for the remaining of this year to incorporate fundamental features and to improve the overall look of the website.

Exco Member, Ben Pape, gave an update on the recent developments in the Trade and Investment Subgroup. Further dialogues will be initiated with the new Malaysian High Commissioner. A framework of events is being finalised including the second business delegation to Kuala Lumpur in April 2020. BMS Member, Navin Sivanganam, also gave a brief introduction to his new mentoring initiative for UKEC students involving young Malaysian professionals as mentors and further developments will be shared in the coming months.

The BMS thanked Exco Member, David Pittaway QC, for his help in organising the event with the Rt Hon The Lord Hughes of Ombersley, former Supreme Court judge, who is the Treasurer of Inner Temple this year. David also gave a brief overview of his work at the Inner Temple, noting that the Malaysian alumni form the largest cohort among Commonwealth countries.

The Chairman announced the resignation of Peter Farrar (Honorary Treasurer) and Haliza Hashim-Doyle (Exco member). The BMS thanked them for serving on the Board and in particular, Peter's tremendous contribution and support to the Society over many years.

Members who are interested in being more involved with the Society are welcome to express their interest and how they could help.

## **5. Treasurer's Report and 2018 Independently Examined Accounts**

Accounts for 2018 have been signed and uploaded onto the website.

In the absence of the Treasurer, the Chairman highlighted our healthy financial position with more than adequate reserves, which put us on a sound footing for the longer term. The BMS managed to run a programme of successful events with low costs due to our good relationship with various organisations and the support from our corporate members who provided free premises and sponsorship for some events.

The Chairman also noted that some funds will be allocated for the improving BMS's website in the current year. In addition, BMS is holding a £2,653 surplus from the joint ASEAN Societies Inaugural event in November 2018 to be used to fund future ASEAN student initiatives.

## **6. Re-election of Leftley Rowe & Co as the Independent Examiner for 2019-2020**

On behalf the Treasurer, The Chairman proposed that Joe Lee of Leftley Rowe & Co be re-

appointed as the Independent Examiner for the financial year 2019-2020 This was duly seconded and agreed.

The Chairman thanked Joe Lee, Partner at Leftley Rowe for his support and work on the 2018 accounts.

## **7. Election of the Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee proposed the following resolution, which was adopted:

That the following members of the Executive Committee, including those co-opted since the last AGM, it being assumed that being eligible for re-election they so offer themselves, be elected:

Mei Sim Lai OBE (Chairman)  
Dr Euvian Tan (Hon Secretary)  
Chris Neoh (Hon Treasurer)  
Stephanie Cheong (Events Organiser)  
Martin Barrow  
Zehan Albakri-Verden  
Simon Clinton  
Bennett Pape  
David Pittaway QC  
Robin Stevens  
Carole Still  
David Stringer-Lamarre  
Rahiyah Yahya  
Christopher Scott

Resignations since 2018 AGM:

Peter Farrar, Hon Treasurer  
Haliza Hashim-Doyle

## **8. Any other urgent business**

The President, Sir Mark Moody-Stuart, thanked the Chairman for her leadership in shaping the future of the BMS. He also thanked the Executive Committee for their tremendous services across different aspects to ensure the smooth running and further development of the Society.

The Chairman closed the AGM and invited members to join the Presentations and Panel discussion on UK-Malaysia Tourism, promoting Travel in both directions which was chaired by BMS Exco member Martin Barrow CBE. Panel speakers were Alderman Prem Goyal OBE JP of the City of London Corporation, Ashley Perez, Head of Corporate travel at Crystal Corporate.com, Timothy Jenkins of Visit Britain and Mohd Sharir Mohd Ali, Director of Tourism Malaysia London.

The President's Reception took place after the Tourism Presentations and Panel Discussion.