



The British Malaysian Society

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 29 June 2021 at 2.30 pm via Zoom

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies noted from David Stringer-Lamarre, Simon Clinton, Carole Still and Dato Anthony Cooper who were not able to attend.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 29 June 2020

The minutes of last year's meeting were approved.

3. Matters arising not dealt with on the Agenda

There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report and updates from Executive Committee and Subgroups

The Chair, Mei Sim Lai OBE DL welcomed members and guests attending.

The Society had continued to remain active despite the uncertainties around the Covid-19 pandemic. Since the previous AGM in June 2020, the Society had hosted various business, cultural and educational virtual events with successful participation, both in the UK and in Malaysia. In accordance with the UK Government's guidance, the Society would likely be able to host physical events later in the year. The Society has also maintained close engagement with various organisations including BMCC, UKEC and Sarawak Association.

The Society has diverse membership and the Executive Committee will continue efforts in recruiting new members. Mei Sim welcomed new corporate members who joined recently including Global Healthcare and MmmGood.

Robin Stevens provided an update on the Trade and Investment subgroup and its activities. The group continues to liaise with government and business partners to identify, develop and execute sector initiatives. Future events would be planned around MedTech, EdTech, Fin Tech, Renewables and Smart Cities both as BMS and partner events with UK DIT, BMCC, London Stock Exchange and others.

Dr Euvian Tan provided a brief update on the various efforts in streamlining and simplifying the managerial and operational aspects of the Society including the recent appointment of Stephanie Cheong as the webmaster and social media officer. Members who would like to be more involved with the Society were invited to contact the Executive Committee and express their interests in any specific areas and activities they would like to support.

In terms of education, Stephanie Cheong continues to engage with Malaysian students in the UK and facilitate events and programmes for students' career development in alignment with Education Malaysia London. The BMS Book Project will be launched in the second half of this year where second-hand and new children's books will be collected and sent for use by schools and educational groups in rural communities in Malaysia.

The Society's cultural events continued to be well attended by members and guests including our annual Christmas, Chinese New Year, Eid and Diwali celebrations. The Society also initiated the BMS "MAKAN" gathering, monthly social food event at Malaysian Restaurants to promote Malaysian food and support Malaysian restaurants.

The Society had supported various charities and social causes, including raising funds for the less fortunate, homeless, and marginalised communities during the first Malaysia pandemic lockdown. The funds were used to purchase food for the affected communities in Kuantan, Beserah and Sungai Karang, Malaysia.

Navin Sivaganam provided an update on the Young Professionals Network and the BMS-UKEC Mentoring Scheme. The mentoring scheme has been well received by both the mentors and mentees, and the next series will be launched in autumn. Future events and activities will continue to focus on the themes on career and personal developments.

5. Treasurer's Report and 2020 Independently Examined Accounts

Accounts for 2020 were approved. Subscription income in 2020 remained broadly in line with 2019 with small decrease of £44. Corporate membership subscriptions at £8,595, represented the largest part of the total sum at just over 50.9%.

With only two physical events held in 2020 and the absence of Christmas drinks, deficits from functions fell from £4,149 to £121. With physical events scheduled to resume in the second half of this year, functions deficit is expected to rise for year ended 2021. IT costs decreased by 26% in 2020 as website related expenses fell, offset by a smaller increase in expenditure related to the cost of Zoom for webinars and online meetings.

With a small drop in subscription income and a 67% fall in expenses, the surplus for 2020 rose by 54% to £14,360. Subsequently, net assets carried forward at the year-end rose to £58,471. Cash balances rose by 21% to £62,429 as at 31 December 2020 due to the surplus achieved and a change of £3,617 relating to working capital.

6. Re-election of Leftley Rowe & Co as the Independent Examiner for 2021-2022

The Chairman proposed that Leftley Rowe & Co be re-appointed as the Independent Examiner for the financial year 2021-2022. This was duly seconded and agreed. The Chairman thanked Joe Lee, Partner at Leftley Rowe for his work on the 2020 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 DL (Chairman)
Dr Euvian Tan (Hon Secretary)
Stuart Eu (Hon Treasurer)
Stephanie Cheong (Webmaster and Social Media Officer)
Martin Barrow CBE
Bennett Pape
Robin Stevens
Carole Still
David Stringer-Lamarre
Christopher Scott
Navin Sivanganam
Alex Swan
Gavin Wilkins

New co-opted members at 2021 AGM:

Dr Kogila Balakrishnan
Fara Mohammad

Resignations since 2020 AGM:

Zehan Albakri-Verden
Simon Clinton
Rav Roberts
David Pittaway QC

8. Any other urgent business

Mei Sim thanked the four members retiring from the Executive Committee - Zehan Albakri-Verden, Simon Clinton, Rav Roberts and David Pittaway QC – for their tremendous support and service to the Society.

The AGM was concluded by a brief address from the President, Sir Mark Moody-Stuart. He commended the Executive Committee for the excellent programme of events and active engagement under Mei Sim's leadership to raise the profile of the Society.

The Chairman closed the AGM and invited members to join a video presentation by tve (Television for the Environment) and a panel discussion on COP26 (The 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference) chaired by The President, Sir Mark Moody-Stuart.