

message from the President

This third quarter was marked by a great loss to all Malaysians when First Lady Datin Paduka Seri Endon Mahmood passed away after a long illness. MAF members extend their condolences to the late Datin Paduka Seri Endon's family.

At this time of the year too we look back on our performance as we prepare for the new year when the AGM will be held. MAF



members who are still hesitating should reflect on how they can contribute to the running of our association and step forward to stand for office come election time.

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MAF President

Malaysian Education Minister elected UNESCO Vice President



Education Minister Dato' Seri His-hammuddin Tun Hussein has been elected Vice-President of the 33rd General Conference of UNESCO held in Paris from 3 to 21 October 2005.

While in Paris, the Education Minister took the time off to meet and break fast with 22 Malaysian students at the UNESCO restaurant on Saturday 8 October. Among the students were 12 teachers undergoing French courses at the University of Poitiers and JPA students in Paris.

Al-Fatihah



Our deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolence to YAB Dato' Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and family, on the demise of Allahyarhamah YABhg Datin Paduka Seri Endon Mahmood on Thursday, 20 October 2005. Her strength, her spirit and her contributions will always be remembered by Malaysians.

upcoming events

January 2006	AGM
	Annual Dinner
Venue :	Paris
February 2006	Chinese New Year
Venue :	Paris
April	Easter Egg Hunt

All events dates are subject to change .
Please check the website www.maf.online.fr regularly or with a member of the committee for confirmation.

Selamat Bersara



Mr. Goh Peng Joo receiving his retirement gift from H.E. Ambassador

A very happy retirement to Mr. Goh Peng Joo, Malaysian Embassy's accounts clerk and MAF auditor, who retired on 31st July 2005. Mr. Goh has served the Embassy of Malaysia in Paris for 25 years. MAF wishes Mr. Goh an enjoyable retirement.

MAF committee 2005

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48TH MERDEKA SPECIAL

■ HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT YOUR COUNTRY ?

Little known facts that add to the wonder of Malaysia

1. TUANKU ABDUL RAHMAN first announced the date of Malaysia's independence at Padang Pahlawan in Bandar Hilir, Malacca, on Feb 20, 1956.
2. MALAYSIA's first experiment with the national service was in 1962, during the Indonesian Confrontation. Youths between 21 and 28 were eligible for a two-year-call-up.
3. 'TUN' is the most senior federal title and there can be no more than 25 living recipients at any one time.
4. The largest cave chamber in the world is the Sarawak Chamber in Gunung Mulu National Park, Sarawak, which can easily accommodate a Boeing 747-200.
5. Sabah, is home to the Rafflesia, the largest flower in the world.
6. Chinese documents written as far back as the 6th century refer to Kelantan as "Ho Lan Tan" and other names like "Tan-Tan"
7. Malaysia has 65,877 km of highway. This is more than the Earth's circumference of 40,075 km.
8. The life expectancy of Malaysian men and women in 1957 was 55.8 years and 58.2 years respectively. Today, it is 71 for men and 74 for women.
9. Malaysia is home to 14,500 species of flowering plants, more than 200 species of mammals, 600 species of birds, 140 species of snakes and 60 species of lizards.
10. The Mapping and Survey Department has been maintaining the Sultan Abdul Samad Clock Tower for 108 years.

SOURCE: The New Straits Times, 31st August 2005

FRENCH MINISTERS VISIT MALAYSIAN PAVILLION AT TOURISM FAIR



At the three-day "Top Resa" travel trade fair held in Deauville, France, 22 - 24 September 2005, Malaysia had the honour of welcoming Mr. Dominique Perben, French Minister of Transport, Capital Works, Tourism and Marine Affairs and Mr. Leon Betrand, French Minister Delegate of Tourism, at the Malaysian pavilion.

On hand to receive the two French Ministers were H.E. Dato' Hamidah Mohd Yusoff, Ambassador of Malaysia to France, Puan Adlina Borhan, Director of Tourism Malaysia Paris and Encik Zainuddin Mohamed, Area Manager of Malaysia Airlines Paris.



Captain Musa Omar RMN greeting guest at the Armed Forces Day Reception with HE Ambassador and Puan Zainon

A reception to celebrate the 72nd Malaysian Armed Forces Day was hosted by H.E. Dato' Hamidah Mohd Yusoff, Ambassador of Malaysia to France, Captain Musa Omar, Defense Attaché of the Embassy of Malaysia in Paris and his wife, Puan Zainon Ahmad, at the Concorde La Fayette Hotel on Wednesday, 21 September 2005. The reception was held not only to celebrate the Armed Forces Day but also to commemorate and remember the Armed Forces personnel who sacrificed their lives in the course of their duty.

A National Day reception, a Malaysian Bazaar, Merdeka Golf Tournament and a Bowling Competition were organised by the Malaysian Embassy to mark the 48th anniversary of our independence. More than 250 guests, including the US Ambassador to France, Craig Stapleton, senior French government officials and captains of industry attended the National Day reception at the Concorde La Fayette Hotel on 7 September 2005. Malaysian Ambassador to France H.E. Dato' Hamidah Mohd Yusoff and her spouse, Encik Abdul R. Zabidin were on hand to receive the guests, who included Plantation Industries and Commodities Minister the Hon. Datuk Peter Chin Fah Kui.



The Malaysian Bazaar at the Ambassador's residence, Rumah Malaysia, was well attended too, attracting more than 250 guests. They included foreign diplomats as well as the French and international communities in Paris. The foreign guests had a great time sampling exquisite Malaysian fare such as nasi lemak, satay, roti canai, murtabak, vadai and ais kacang. Both the Merdeka golf tournament and bowling competition also attracted a good response. The participants comprised of ASEAN ambassadors, Malaysian Embassy officials and their guests, as well as members of the Malaysian Association in France (MAF).



Royal Visitors

DYMM SULTAN OF TERENGGANU, Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin Ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Mahmud, accompanied by DYMM Permaisuri Nur Zahirah were on a private visit to Paris on 25 August 2005.

DYMM SULTAN OF KELANTAN, Tuanku Ismail Petra Ibni Almarhum Sultan Yahaya Petra and Raja Perempuan Kelantan were on a private visit to Le Havre on 24 July 2005

HRH THE REGENT OF PERLIS Brigadier General Tuanku Syed Faizuddin Putra Ibni Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Putra Al-Haj accompanied by his Consort, HRH Tuanku Hajjah Lailatul Shahreen Akashah visited France from 24 - 26 June 2005. His Royal Highness led a 30-person delegation from the Reserve Officer Training Unit (PALAPES) on a working visit to learn first-hand information on the organizational structure of the French Reserve Forces.



The Regent of Perlis and his Consort with naval officers in Cherbourg

Official Visitors

The Deputy Minister of Transport II, the Hon. Tengku Dato' Seri Azlan Ibni Sultan Abu Bakar led a team of senior officials from the Ministry of Transport and Malaysia Airports Berhad for a working visit to France from 7-10 October 2005.

The Deputy Minister of Entrepreneurs and Cooperative Development, the Hon. Dato' Khamsiyah Yeop was in transit for Kuala Lumpur on 10 October 2005. A 10-member delegation led by YM Raja Dato' Zaharaton Raja Zainal Abidin, Director General of the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) of the Prime Minister's Department was on a working visit to Paris from 11 - 13 September 2005. The Director General was accompanied by senior officials from the EPU and representatives of the Ministries of Finance, Education, Internal Security, Health, Defence and the Office of the Attorney General.

Malaysian Ambassador promotes Malaysia over French radio



Radio BeurFM, the number one Maghreb radio network in France, interviewed the Malaysian Ambassador to France, H.E. Dato' Hamidah Mohd Yusoff, on Monday, 17 October 2005. The two-hour live interview on the radio programme entitled "Ramadan in the World" focused on the observance of Ramadan by Muslims in Malaysia and France. H.E. Ambassador seized the opportunity during the interview to speak of Malaysia's tourist attractions to the 8 million radio listeners in France and in the Maghreb region who were listening to the radio programme. H.E. Ambassador also announced during the interview Tourism Malaysia's and Malaysia Airlines' special package tour at an attractive price of €90, aimed at wooing more French travellers to Malaysia. A mixture of old and new Malaysian songs were also aired in between the interview. The selected songs were "Your face is bright" by Raihan, Di Hari Raya by the late Tan Sri P. Ramlee, Lagu Rindu by Siti Nurhaliza, Pantun Budi by Tan Sri Dato' S.M. Salim and "Alhamdulillah" by Too Phat.

SPORTS

Malaysian Fairuz Fauzy finished 10th in GP2 race at French Grand Prix

Malaysian DAM's driver, Fairuz Fauzy, finished the GP2 Race in 10th place for Race Two during the French Grand Prix, held at Magny-Cours on Sunday, July 3, 2005.

"It was a good experience for me to be at Magny-Cours. As the track was very technical, it wasn't easy to set up the car to make it faster," said Fairuz when he visited the Embassy of Malaysian in Paris after the race. "It was also a good opportunity for me to experience the physical track at Magny-Cours".

After Magny-Cours, Fairuz took part in the GP 2 series of the British Grand Prix in Silverstone on July 9 and 10, 2005

Hopeful of being Formula One driver, Fairuz, who started racing go-karts since the age of 12, had a successful career in England in Formula 3 before joining the newly created GP2 series earlier this year. The GP2 series is a training ground to help young drivers achieve their dream of participating in the Formula One World Championship. To know more on Fairuz's achievements, see www.fairuzfauzy.com



Kuantan Methodist Girls School Band made a tour visit to Paris from 1 - 3 August 2005.

Victorial Institution Cadet Corps Band was in Paris on 25 July 2005 after it bagged two awards at the Dutch World Music Festival in Kerkrade, The Netherlands held on 23 and 24 July 2005. The band won a gold medal in the Show Contest championship division and a silver medal in the Marching Parade championship division.

SYABAS!

Malaysian's first designer at Prêt-a-Porter Paris

THE world's largest international fashion showcase, PRET-A-PORTER PARIS from 2 - 5 September 2005, has increased its leading brand offerings with the historic addition of purple cinnamon by Rita Shah – the first designer from Malaysia.

This appearance marks the launch of the purple cinnamon resort collection in Europe, featuring chic, versatile creations for the modern day multitasking woman. Rita Shah's participation in Pret-à-Porter is facilitated under the Women Trade Outreach programme (WTOPI), managed by the Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) to assist women entrepreneurs to promote their products and services abroad. Rita Shah can be contacted at: pr@purplecinnamon.com, www.purplecinnamon.com



news in brief

Hualon expands textile

exports to Europe after world fair

A MALAYSIAN textile manufacturer has expanded its exports to European countries, notably Britain, Belgium, Spain and Germany, following its participation in the Texworld International Fair in Paris from 19 to 22 September 2005.



According to Ong Jaw Lin, marketing manager of Nilai-based Hualon Corp Sdn Bhd, new orders have also come from eastern Europe, especially Poland and the Czech Republic. Ong noted that Malaysian textile manufacturers had to produce better quality fabrics to stave off stiff competition from China. Among the visitors to Hualon's stand was Malaysian Ambassador to France, Datuk Hamidah Mohd Yusoff, who was accompanied by senior officials from Matrade and Mida in Paris.

Malaysian Mofaz Group signed an agreement with French 24powergroup

The Mofaz Group signed an agreement with French 24powergroup, a leading French energy drink producer, to promote the 24powerdrink in the rapidly expanding energy drink market in Malaysia and the Asian region. The signing of the agreement between the two companies held at Magny-Cours, France on Sunday, 3 July 2005 was witnessed by H.E. Dato' Hamidah Mohd Yusoff, Ambassador of Malaysia to France.

The new partnership was also announced in conjunction with the GP2 Series championship held during the French Grand Prix at Magny Cours. The 24powerdrink is the official drink of the DAMS' team of which Malaysian DAM's driver Fairuz Fauzy participated in the GP2 race.

The Mofaz Group will handle the sales and distribution of the 24powerdrink in Malaysia and the Asian region including Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia. Unlike other energy drinks, 24powerdrink has a unique taste, with a passion fruit flavour, which sets it apart from other energy drinks.

The 24powerdrink was scheduled to be made available in the Malaysian market in mid-August 2005.



FRANCE-MALAYSIA BUSINESS NEWS

Malaysia Calls French Companies To Form JVs In Auto Component

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 17 (Bernama) -- Malaysia has called on French automotive component manufacturers to consider joint ventures with their Malaysian counterparts in the automotive component sector.

The call was made by Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities Datuk Peter Chin Fah Kui at a seminar on "Malaysia-France Business Opportunities in Rubber Products" held at the Concorde La Fayette Hotel Paris on 9 September 2005.

French companies are also encouraged to look upon Malaysia as a source for sub-contracting business in the rubber manufacturing sector and to joint venture with Malaysian companies in the field of technical collaboration or transfer of technology.

In terms of bilateral trade, Malaysia's exports of rubber products to France grew 115 percent to US\$58 million in 2004 from US\$27 million in 2000. Latex dipped goods accounted for 82 percent or US\$47 million of Malaysia's total exports of rubber products to France, consisting mainly of rubber gloves, catheters and latex thread.

The seminar, which was jointly organised by the Malaysian rubber agencies in collaboration with Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (Matrade) and the Malaysian Industrial Development Authority (Mida), was also attended by Malaysian Ambassador to France Datuk Hamidah Mohd Yusoff. -- BERNAMA