



High Commission of Maldives
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Newsletter

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Issue 4



High Commission Launches Eku Ekeegai Orientation Program for New Students

12 October



The High Commission launched its inaugural orientation programme 'Eku Ekeegai' aimed at supporting Maldivian students pursuing their studies in Malaysia.

This programme, designed to ease the transition for Maldivian students, was officially inaugurated by High Commissioner H. E. Dr. Mariyam Shabeena Ahmed. Speaking at the ceremony, she stressed the significance of the programme in minimising the challenges students may face during their stay in Malaysia.

The programme aims to ease the transition for students, helping them navigate the challenges of settling in Malaysia and ensuring a smooth educational journey. The programme provides students with guidance on adjusting to life in Malaysia, building connections with fellow students, and becoming familiar with visa regulations, Malaysian customs, and the local culture.

This initiative aligns with the Maldivian government's broader policy of developing skilled professionals to contribute to the country's growth and prosperity.

Maldivian Quran Hafiza Wins 3rd Place at Prestigious Quran Assembly in Malaysia

5 October

Fathimath Shaza Zahir, a young and talented Quran Hafiza from Maldives, won the 3rd Place in the Hifz category of the 64th International Al-Quran Recitation and Memorisation Assembly 2024, held in Malaysia from 5-12 October 2024.

High Commissioner H.E. Dr. Mariyam Shabeena Ahmed met with Fathimath Shaza Zahir in person and congratulated her on her outstanding success in the competition. Counsellor Abdullah Mamdhooch also attended the ceremony.

The theme of this year's assembly, Al-Falah: The Catalyst of Malaysia MADANI, aligns with Malaysia's aspirations to achieve prosperity and progress grounded in noble values.

The Prime Minister of Malaysia, His Excellency Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, graced the opening ceremony of the competition, while His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, King of Malaysia, and her Majesty Raja Zarith Sofiah, Queen of Malaysia, participated in the closing ceremony.





High Commissioner Delivers Remarks at Sabah International Blue Economy Conference

19 October

High Commissioner H.E. Dr. Mariyam Shabeena Ahmed delivered remarks on waste management during the “Ambassadors and High Commissioners” session of the Sabah International Blue Economy Conference held in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.

In her remarks, the High Commissioner addressed the worsening global waste crisis and emphasized the urgent need for action to achieve a resilient and sustainable Blue Economy. She highlighted the critical role of effective waste management in ensuring resilience, noting that for countries like Maldives, the Blue Economy is the foundation of the national economy.

The High Commissioner outlined the waste management efforts in Maldives, including initiatives such as phasing out single-use plastics, implementing waste segregation practices, decentralizing waste management centers, and conducting national campaigns like the “Magey Saafu Raajje” cleanup campaign. Despite these proactive measures, she acknowledged that Maldives faces an uphill battle in managing waste due to logistical challenges in transporting waste, lack of awareness, and restricted land availability for waste infrastructure.

She concluded her remarks by recognizing promising international developments, including the UN Environment Programme’s efforts toward a binding agreement to ban single-use plastics and initiatives from other countries, which offer hope for collaborative solutions to the global waste crisis.



The challenges will certainly be many, but it is our will to do and collective push that will define the future of a flourishing Blue Economy in parallel with nature.

- High Commissioner Dr. Shabeena Ahmed -



High Commissioner Participates as Panelist at International Conference on Tropical Sciences

15 October



High Commissioner H.E. Dr. Mariyam Shabeena Ahmed served as a panelist in the “The Way Forward for the Tropics” segment of the 2nd International Conference on Tropical Sciences held in Kuching, Sarawak.

During the panel discussion, the High Commissioner highlighted how small tropical island states, including Maldives, face substantial challenges from climate change, sea-level rise, extreme weather events, and biodiversity loss. She highlighted the heightened vulnerability of Maldives to rising global temperatures, noting that the worsening situation poses an existential threat to Maldives’ survival and economy. She also spoke about the importance of nature-based solutions, renewable energy, economic diversification, and international collaboration to build resilience against these challenges.

Visit to Borneo Cultures Museum

17 October

High Commissioner, H.E. Dr. Mariyam Shabeena Ahmed, accompanied by Second Secretary Fathimath Shaba, met with Professor Dr. Ahmad Hata bin Rasit, Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS), to discuss collaborative initiatives in higher education and research.

During the meeting, the High Commissioner also had the pleasure of meeting a Maldivian student currently studying at UNIMAS.



Meeting with Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS)

19 October

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Deputy High Commissioner Meets Immigration Officials

29 October



Deputy High Commissioner Mr. Ibrahim Shaaz Habeeb met with immigration officials at the Pejabat Immigration Branch in Wangsa Maju to discuss improvements in visa services for the Maldivian community.

During the meeting, the Deputy High Commissioner and immigration officials explored ways to enhance and expedite services provided to Maldivian citizens. Discussions focused on identifying current challenges faced by Maldivian nationals in obtaining timely visa approvals and how processes could be streamlined to ensure greater efficiency. The Deputy High Commissioner highlighted the commitment of the High Commission to support Maldivians residing in Malaysia and stressed the need for continuous collaboration with immigration authorities to facilitate better services.

High Commissioner Meets with Delegation from UCSI University

9 October

High Commissioner H.E. Dr. Mariyam Shabeena Ahmed received a courtesy visit from a delegation representing University College Sedaya International (UCSI).

The High Commissioner and the UCSI delegation discussed ways to maximize scholarship opportunities for Maldivian students, enable home-based research for postgraduate students, and address visa-related issues faced by students. The High Commissioner also highlighted the necessity for establishing local internship opportunities for Maldivian medical students currently pursuing their MBBS degrees in Malaysia.

The UCSI University delegation included Professor. Ts. Dr, Lionel In Lian Aun, Lecturer and Research Manager Ts.Dr. Vahid Khosravi, and Assistant Manager of International Marketing Yuvaraj Chandra Segaran.



Launching Ceremony of the ASEAN-Malaysia Chairmanship 2025

22 October



High Commissioner H.E. Dr. Mariyam Shabeena Ahmed attended the launch of the logo and theme for the ASEAN-Malaysia Chairmanship 2025, at Tunku Abdul Rahman Hall, Wisma Putra, Malaysia.

The ceremony, officiated by Minister of Foreign Affairs Dato' Seri Utama Haji Mohamad bin Haji Hasan, was attended by various ministers, senior government officials, foreign heads of mission, and media representatives.

High Commissioner Meets Chief Minister of Sabah

15 October



High Commissioner H.E. Dr. Mariyam Shabeena Ahmed met with Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor, Chief Minister of Sabah, at a dinner hosted by the latter to welcome ambassadors and high commissioners attending the Sabah International Blue Economy Conference.

During the dinner held at the Chief Minister’s official residence, the Chief Minister expressed his gratitude to the ambassadors for their active participation and support in advancing blue economy initiatives. Recognizing the importance of international collaboration, he acknowledged the ambassadors’ contributions toward fostering sustainable growth, conservation, and innovation in the blue economy sector.

In this regard, the Chief Minister extended his appreciation to the High Commissioner for her contributions to the conference’s success. At the invitation of the Sabah Maju Secretariat, the High Commissioner delivered insightful remarks on waste management as an essential pillar of the Blue Economy.

INCEIF University’s 15th Convocation

26 October

Counsellor Abdullah Mamdhoooh participated in International Center for Education in Islamic Finance (INCEIF) University’s 15th Convocation, held at Sasana Kijang, Bank Negara Malaysia. The convocation celebrated approximately 117 graduates from 25 nations, including three graduates from the Maldives.

INCEIF is a Malaysian Islamic university established in 2005 by Bank Negara Malaysia to develop human capital and knowledge leadership for the global Islamic finance industry. INCEIF was conferred university status by Malaysia’s Ministry of Higher Education in November 2006

High Commissioner Receives UPM’s Best Alumni Achievement Award

26 October

High Commissioner H.E. Dr. Mariyam Shabeena Ahmed was honored with the prestigious Special International Alumni Award from Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) during the university’s Sirih Pulang Ke Gagang @homecoming XII charity dinner 2024.

This award celebrates her outstanding contributions and achievements as an alumna, highlighting her commitment to excellence and service. The event was officiated by the UPM’s Chancellor, His Royal Highness Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah, the Sultan of Selangor.





Deputy High Commissioner Visits Cultural Event at Taylor’s University

15 October

Deputy High Commissioner Mr. Ibrahim Shaaz Habeeb visited the Maldivian students’ booth at Taylor’s University. The booth was part of the Around the World three-day celebration, which highlighted the diverse cultures represented on campus.

Maldivian students showcased Maldives through their booth, offering a glimpse into the nation’s rich culture and heritage. Students across universities in Malaysia take pride in promoting Maldives and sharing its vibrant culture within the academic environment.

Virtual Meeting with NIE on Online Classes for Students

24 October

High Commissioner H.E. Dr. Mariyam Shabeena held a virtual meeting with the National Institute of Education (NIE) of Maldives.

During the meeting, a detailed discussion took place on the structure and delivery of Dhivehi and Islam online classes for Maldivian students in Malaysia. They reviewed current deficiencies, identified areas for improvement, and explored methods to enhance the quality of class delivery in the future.

The online classes for Maldivian students in Malaysia, launched by NIE, resumed in May 2024 after an extended hiatus

Maldivian Students Perform at APU’s Island Night 2024

11 October

High Commissioner H.E. Dr. Mariyam Shabeena Ahmed attended Island Night 2024, organized by the Student Association at Asia Pacific University (APU). The event featured performances by Maldivian students showcasing the rich natural beauty of Maldives.

Island Night 2024 is an annual cultural event where students proudly represent their cultural heritage through traditional performances and activities that highlight the beauty and heritage of island nations. Students from Madagascar, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, and Seychelles took part in this year’s event.



Meeting with the Chairman of International Modern Arabic School

14 October



High Commissioner H.E. Dr. Mariyam Shabeena Ahmed, accompanied by Minister Counsellor Aishath Samaha, held a meeting with Chairman Dato' Dr. Faisa Hayel Saeed of the International Modern Arabic School (IMAS).

The meeting explored solutions to challenges, such as visa-related issues, faced by Maldivian students at the school. This effort forms part of the High Commission's broader commitment to addressing the concerns experienced by Maldivian students in institutions with substantial Maldivian student enrolment.

High Commissioner Attends Wellness Conference

10 October

High Commissioner H.E. Dr. Mariyam Shabeena Ahmed attended the International Conference on Mental Wellness and Women's Empowerment, titled 'Her Mind, Her Strength: Women, Wellness, and Empowerment.'

Organized by the Malaysian Social Institute and the Ministry of Women, Family, and Community Development, the conference aimed to raise awareness and provide participants with practical tools and resources to enhance their mental well-being. A notable session featured Dr. Rania Awaad, a Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Stanford University and an esteemed Islamic scholar, who shared her insights on mental health from an Islamic perspective.

The conference was graced by Her Majesty the Queen of Malaysia Kebawah Duli Yang Maha Mulia Seri Paduka Baginda Raja Permaisuri Agong Raja Zarith Sofiah, and attended by YABhg. Dato' Seri Dr. Wan Azizah binti Dr. Wan Ismail, spouse of the Prime Minister of Malaysia, H.E. Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Graduation ceremony of International Modern Arabic School

26 October

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Commemorating the 79th United Nations Day in Malaysia

29 October

Commissioner H.E. Dr. Mariyam Shabeena Ahmed attended the United Nations Day 2024 celebration in Malaysia, themed Our Common Future, hosted by the United Nations Multi-Country Office for Malaysia, Singapore, and Brunei Darussalam.

The event marked the 79th anniversary of the United Nations and was officiated by Dato' Ahmad Rozian bin Abd. Ghani, Deputy Secretary General (Bilateral Affairs) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ms. Karima El Korri, the UN Resident Coordinator for Malaysia, Singapore, and Brunei Darussalam, delivered remarks on the occasion.

The commemoration brought together government officials, members of the diplomatic corps, representatives from civil society, youth organizations, religious leaders, academia, the private sector, and media personnel.

National Day Celebrations Hosted by Diplomatic Missions

9 October



The High Commissioner attended National Day receptions hosted by foreign missions in Malaysia. On 9 October 2024, she attended the reception organized by the Embassy of Spain in celebration of Spain's National Day. On 23 October 2024, accompanied by Second Secretary Azumeena Abdul Kareem, the High Commissioner attended the National Day reception hosted by the Embassy of Hungary



Maldives' Guesthouse Tourism Highlighted at Malaysian Exhibition

9 October

The Chak'z Beach booth from Maldives was a main highlight at the International Tourism & Cultures Exhibition and Conference (INTACT 2024), held at the World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur. Showcasing a guesthouse from Dharavandhoo Island, Chak'z 1964 Beach exemplified Maldives' vibrant guesthouse tourism, which offers travellers an authentic experience of local culture together with Maldives' natural beauty on a budget.

High Commissioner H.E. Dr. Mariyam Shabeena Ahmed visited the Maldives booth during her attendance at the opening ceremony of INTACT 2024.

INTACT 2024 brings together travel and cultural exhibitors from around the world, offering a unique platform for international tourism and cultural exchange.



Maldivian Diplomats attend Thailand Week 2024

18 October



First Secretary Hussain Ibrahim and Second Secretary Ismail Madhih from the High Commission attended Thailand Week 2024, co-located with the Selangor International Business Summit (SIBS 2024) at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC). The event was organized by the Department of International Trade Promotion (DITP Malaysia), the Embassy of Thailand, and the Tourism Authority of Thailand.

During the event, the diplomats engaged with businesses and stakeholders, exploring potential avenues for collaboration.

Cultural Event Hosted by the Embassy of Turkmenistan

25 October

Counsellor Ibrahim Mamdhoooh attended a cultural event organized by the Embassy of Turkmenistan in celebration of 2024 being designated as the year of "Fount of wisdom – Magtymguly Fragi". The event showcased Turkmenistan's rich cultural heritage and highlighted the enduring contributions of Magtymguly Fragi, a revered poet and philosopher in Turkmen literature.



High Commissioner Attends Beautyexpo & Cosmobeauté Malaysia 2024

2 October

High Commissioner H.E. Dr. Mariyam Shabeena Ahmed, accompanied by First Secretary Hussain Ibrahim, attended the opening of Beautyexpo & Cosmobeauté Malaysia 2024.

The event, officiated by HDC Chairman YBrs. Khairul Azwan Harun, focused on halal-certified beauty products and drew international exhibitors from the beauty and wellness industry. Improve this sentence. During the event, the High Commissioner engaged with stakeholders and participants, exploring potential opportunities for Maldivian products in Malaysia's beauty sector.



Meeting with Brighton International School and University Geomatika

24 October



High Commissioner H.E. Dr. Mariyam Shabeena Ahmed recently met with representatives from Brighton International School and University Geomatika. The meetings focused on addressing consular issues and exploring potential collaborations in academic exchange and skill enhancement in the field of Tourism Management.

University Geomatika agreed to send a business proposal detailing corporate training programs and future collaboration opportunities.

Consular Statistics of October

In October, the High Commission's Consular Department actively supported citizens by managing a significant total of 284 cases and inquiries. The High Commission received a diverse array of requests, from emergency assistance to document processing, ensuring citizens received timely and professional service.

Here's a breakdown of the services provided:

- ▶ **Emergency Assistance:** Consular Services promptly attended to 2 emergency cases.
- ▶ **Passport Renewals and Cancellations:** A total of 13 individuals sought services related to passport renewals and cancellations. The High Commission can only accept passport applications for citizens holding long-term visas.
- ▶ **Certificates of Identity:** 4 emergency travel documents were issued for individuals who had lost their passports. Citizens are reminded to report to the nearest police station in the event of loss of passport.
- ▶ **Document Verification and Attestation:** The department processed 36 document verifications and 67 document attestations. Please verify documents through the Maldives' authorities before seeking attestation; this process generally takes 3-5 working days. Citizens are encouraged to begin the visa process well in advance and allow sufficient time for each step to ensure a smooth and timely experience.
- ▶ **Visa-Related Assistance:** 16 individuals sought assistance related to visa matters, and 21 visa-related letters were issued. Students and families are advised to request assistance through email and maintain email communications. Moreover, for visa expedition, kindly inform the university before seeking our assistance on visa-related issues, along with the supporting documents.
- ▶ **Meranaa and Medical Services:** Verification was completed for 40 medical applications. Applicants are encouraged to upload updated visas and ensure all information is accurately filled out to avoid rejection of the application.
- ▶ **Email Correspondence:** The Consular Department handled a high volume of inquiries, responding to 72 emails covering various issues, including visa assistance, passport renewals, family relationship letters, license verification, and more.
- ▶ **Other:** An additional 12 letters were issued for topics such as marital status, passport notifications, and license verification.

