

# **MALAYSIA'S MEMBERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

## **INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

### **United Nations (UN)**

The United Nations is central to global efforts to solve problems which challenge humanity. Cooperating in this effort are more than 30 affiliated organizations, known together as the UN system. Day in and day out, the UN and its family of organizations work to promote respect for human rights, protect the environment, fight disease, foster development and reduce poverty.

### **World Trade Organization (WTO)**

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations. At its heart are the WTO agreements, negotiated and signed by the bulk of the world's trading nations and ratified in their parliaments. The goal is to help producers of goods and services, exporters, and importers conduct their business.

### **World Health Organization (WHO)**

WHO is the directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations system. It is responsible for providing leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends.

## **REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

### **Asia Cooperations Dialogue (ACD)**

The Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) was inaugurated in June 2002 in Cha-Am, Thailand, where 18 Asian Foreign Ministers met together for the first time. The ACD is a continent-wide forum, the first of its kind in Asia. More specifically, the ACD aims to constitute the missing link in Asia by incorporating every Asian country and building an Asian Community without duplicating other organizations or creating a bloc against others.

### **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**

The work of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) is aimed at improving the welfare of the people in Asia and the Pacific, particularly the 1.9 billion who live on less than \$2 a day. Despite many success stories, Asia and the Pacific remains home to two thirds of the world's poor.

### **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)**

The Association of Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN) was established in Bangkok, Thailand, with the signing of the Bangkok Declaration on 8 August 1967. The members of ASEAN are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. The Secretariat of the ASEAN is located in Jakarta, Indonesia.

### **Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)**

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) was formed in 1989 in response to the growing interdependence among Asia-Pacific economies that represent about half of the world merchandise trade. Malaysia made its role as the APEC Chair for meetings and activities in 1998. APEC's objectives are to sustain economic growth of the region and the world; enhance positive gains by encouraging the flow of goods, services, capital and technology; develop and strengthen the open multilateral trading system; reduce barriers; and trade goods and services in consistent with the General Agreement on Tariff and Trades (GATT) principles.

### **Asian African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO)**

The Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO), originally known as the Asian Legal Consultative Committee (ALCC) was constituted on 15 November 1956. It is considered to be a tangible outcome of the historic Bandung Conference, held in Indonesia, in April 1955. Seven Asian States, namely Burma (now Myanmar), Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), India, Indonesia, Iraq, Japan, and the United Arab Republic (now Arab Republic of Egypt and Syrian Arab Republic) are the original Member States. Later, in April 1958, in order to include participation of countries of the continent of Africa its name was changed to Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee (AALCC). At the 40th Session, held at the Headquarters of AALCC in New Delhi, in 2001, the name of the Committee was changed to Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO). It might seem to be a small nomenclature change, however, it has great symbolic significance reflecting the growing status of the Organization and the place it has secured among the family of international organizations.

## **ORGANIZATIONS WITH VARIOUS MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA**

### **Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC)**

The organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) is an international organisation grouping 56 states which have decided to pool their resources together, combine and secure progress as well-being of their people and of all Muslims in the world.

### **Commonwealth of Nations**

Malaysia plays a very active and prominent role in the Commonwealth. Our contributions to the Commonwealth are varied and wide-ranging. They include the following:

- On the organizational aspect, Malaysia chaired the High Level Appraisal Group on the Commonwealth in the 1990s and Beyond which reviewed the roles and structures of the Commonwealth in the 1990s and beyond, both at the Heads of Government and senior officials level in 1990.
- We also chaired the first meeting of the Steering Committee of Senior Officials (SCOSO) in 1993 which was tasked to provide policy guidance and future strategic direction for the Commonwealth Secretariat in carrying out the mandates entrusted to it.

### **Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)**

The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) was established when the leaders of 25 Non-Aligned countries plus 3 observers countries attended the 1 st Conference of Heads of State or Government of the NAM (NAM Summit) at Belgrade, Yugoslavia from 1-6 September 1961. The establishment of the NAM was very much the brainchild of Yugoslavian President Tito, Egyptian President Nasser and Indian Prime Minister Nehru and coupled with the consolidated support of Indonesian President Soekarno and Ghanaian President Nkrumah. In essence, the NAM was the product of the Cold War. It was established out of fear of nuclear holocaust perceived as the eventual outcome of the Cold War between the US-led Western bloc against the USSR-led Eastern bloc which dominated the mainstream of world politics from late 1940s until early 1990s.

### **The Group of Fifteen (G-15)**

The Group of Fifteen (G-15) was established as a Summit Level Group of Developing Countries in September 1989, following the conclusion of the Ninth Non-Aligned Summit Meeting in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. Membership of the Group are Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Venezuela and Zimbabwe.

Source: <http://www.pmo.gov.my/?menu=page&page=1666>. Accessed 30 June 2013.