

**High Commission of India**

**Kuala Lumpur**

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**Press Release**

**International Conference on  
Malaysia India Shared Heritage and Cultural Links**

High Commission of India collaborated with Malaysia India Heritage Society to organize the first ever International Conference on Malaysia India - Shared Heritage Cultural Links at NSCBICC on 19 August 2023 at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Indian Cultural Centre, Brickfields, Kuala Lumpur. The conference was inaugurated by Y Bhg Tan Sri Dato' Seri Utama Dr Rais Yatim, who delivered the Key note address. The event was officiated by H.E.Shri.B.N.Reddy, High Commissioner of India to Malaysia. Mr.Prabhakaran Nair, Founder-President of MIH Society, delivered the welcome address.

2. The conference comprised of 3 sessions which reflected the shared historical heritage of the Malaysia and India.

3. Session 1 of the Malaysia India International Heritage Conference dealt with the importance of Indian diaspora in Malaya and its role in the struggle for freedom. The session was moderated by Prof Dr Aruna Gopinath and the speakers included Dr M Rajendran who spoke on Straits Penal Settlements and Links to Early Freedom Fighters. Ms Uma Maheswari Venkatesan, Singapore elucidated about the Wartime Contributions of Indian Diaspora towards the Freedom of India. Ms.Maganjeet Kaur, dwelt on the INA Strategic Missions from Malay region to India. The session was attended by various academic luminaries from Malaysia, India, Singapore and Indonesia.

4. Session 2 of the Malaysia India conference was moderated by Prof Dr Krishna Gopal Rampal in which the Heritage Links between India, Malaya and the Region was discussed. The session speakers included Mr Sharmalan Thevar who threw light on the Pandyan Influence on Culture and Polity of South East Asia. Dr Nia Deliana from Indonesia dwelt on the Multipolar Mandala and Prof Dr Sivachandralingam Sundara Raja spoke on the role of Indian agents in British Malaya. Further, the influence of Sanskrit on Malay language was discussed by Dr Amir Rashad. An account of notable personalities who visited Malaya in the early 20th century was presented by Mr Balakrishnan Govindasamy.

5. The 3rd session of Malaysia India Heritage International conference dealt with issues relating to global solidarity. It was moderated by Prof Emeritus Dr Osman Abu Bakar. Dr Sudhir Ranjan Sen Gupta spoke on Rabindranath Tagore and the Global Peace Mission and The Universal Relevance of Gandhi as a principle of living was discussed by Prof Prasad Gollanapalli.

6. The session continued to deliberate about Strengthening the Heritage links and eminent speakers included Prof Emeritus Dato' Dr Hashim Yaacob, Mr Uthaya Sankar and Dr Shamsul Amri Baharuddin. The session was moderated by Mr Manoj Nair, Director, Global Indian International School.

7. In conjunction with the 9th International Day of Yoga celebrations, a yoga session was conducted by Shri Sandeep Wankhade, NSCBICC Yoga Teacher, emphasizing on yoga and wellness. H.E.Shri B.N.Reddy felicitated the winners of the 'Yoga My Pride Contest' organised by Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, in conjunction with 9th International Day of Yoga 2023. The winners were awarded with cash prizes and certificates.

8. Gracing the concluding session of the Malaysian Indian Heritage International Conference as the Guest of Honor, Journalism Laureate, Tan Sri Johan Jaaffar lauded the efforts of the Malaysia India Heritage Society and High Commission of India in organizing the first ever International Heritage Conference. He shared that the conference has paved way for further strengthening of the bilateral ties between India and Malaysia in the future. Mr Sasikumar, Secretary, Malaysia India Heritage Society delivered the vote of thanks on the occasion. The day long event was attended by over 100 participants.

Kuala Lumpur  
19 August 2023

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