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## CPA UK Delegation to Malaysia

24 - 28 July 2017

Kuala Lumpur, Selangor, Melaka



**Final Report**





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## Summary

A CPA UK delegation of four members representing both Houses of Parliament visited Malaysia for a week in July 2017 as part of the UK Parliament's bilateral relationship with a key Commonwealth partner. The delegation received a warm welcome and explored a broad range of issues in meetings with government and opposition parliamentarians, and representatives from business, the media and civil society. Through frank and open discussion with their parliamentary colleagues in Malaysia the delegation increased their understanding of a range of issues facing Malaysian parliamentarians, including the upcoming elections, race and religion based politics, and the importance and value of an open democratic space. Further discussion with a large number of stakeholders explored the economic, foreign affairs, defence, and educational links between Malaysia and the UK.

Malaysia is preparing for a general election that has to be held before August 2018 and the UK members found a government and opposition parties focussed on the political challenges ahead. Many took the opportunity to raise with the delegation the issues they are facing. Malaysian politics is predominantly race and religion based and focussed on personalities rather than issues and political parties. The delegation valued hearing often frank views and stressed the value of open democratic space where a variety of voices can contribute to debate. They were concerned about reports they heard of harassment of opposition members and corruption.

While many efforts are being made to ensure free and fair elections in Malaysia there was a strong challenge from opposition politicians about the process including boundary issues, electoral registration, the independence of the electoral commission, and freedom of the media, . The delegation put the case for Commonwealth electoral observers and would like to reiterate the value of this internationally recognised standard of independent oversight and scrutiny of elections.

The delegation heard about significant geopolitical challenges in South East Asia. Malaysia is a stable democracy and a fast-growing economy which has close and peaceful relations with its neighbours. The rise of China as a superpower presents both opportunities, with significant inward investment for Malaysia, while also providing an imbalance of power in the region. Other issues such as the diplomatic dispute with North Korea and disputes over the South China Sea have provided challenges for the traditional neutral and non-interventionist Malaysia.

The Malaysian economy is growing fast and with historical links to the UK offers many opportunities for British business. The delegation visited a variety of successful joint ventures between Malaysian and British businesses, such as the University of Nottingham campus in Malaysia and highlights the many opportunities that Malaysia offers to British business, both within the country and as a base for accessing the large ASEAN market. Members also heard about the opportunities for trade after the UK leaves the European Union and commend Malaysia as a priority for a UK trade agreement.

Malaysia is a majority Muslim country and the delegation heard about the success that the country has made of being a prosperous and stable mixed race and multi-faith country. The success of women in education and in the workplace, was reflected in the many dynamic female leaders in all sectors, who are





making an impact in the way Malaysia is run. There are however a number of challenges that Malaysia faces. In common with the UK they are fighting a rise in violent extremism and it was interesting for the delegation to hear about different approaches. The delegation also heard about the issues faced by some Muslim women and girls with the legalisation of child marriage and the rise in female genital mutilation. We heard about the work being done to counter this and protect women and girls.

Malaysia and the UK have historically close links. For example many Malaysians have been educated in the UK and English is widely spoken. The delegation benefited from the traditional warm Malaysian hospitality and thanks the hosts for the warm welcome. We look forward to welcoming visitors from the Malaysian Parliament to London at their earliest convenience to build ever closer British- Malaysian links.



## Project Overview

1.01. In July 2017 CPA UK sent a delegation of three members of the House of Commons and one member of the House of Lords to visit Malaysia to build on the UK's strong relationship with the Malaysian Parliament. In a week of meetings, the delegation discussed a wide range of issues of mutual importance including trade and investment, defence and security, counter terrorism and radicalisation, foreign relations and issues facing South East Asia, education as well as parliamentary practice and procedure and the forthcoming Malaysian general election.

## Previous CPA UK - Malaysia Visits

1.02. CPA UK last visited Malaysia in 2013, as part of a delegation to Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei. The delegation first visited Kuala Lumpur and Selangor for a two-day programme, before splitting into two smaller groups for the remainder of the visit with one group travelling to Johor and Singapore, the other visiting Sabah and Brunei.

1.03. The visit enabled the UK parliamentary delegates to understand better the challenges faced by their colleagues in the legislatures visited, and, in achieving its objectives, it also gave UK Members a well-rounded insight into wider issues such as economics, trade and industry, ethnic and wealth inequalities, and judicial and immigration issues.

1.04. CPA UK hosted a delegation from the Women's Parliamentary Caucus of Malaysia in September 2015. The delegation was led by Hon. Azalina Othman Said MP, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department. This visit provided an introduction to parliamentary practice and procedure in the UK and explored issues of mutual interest, including women's representation in Parliament.

1.05. Meetings between parliamentarians are a useful opportunity to reinforce how important their role, that of the legislature, and opposition politics, is in a democratic system. The UK Parliament continues to look for opportunities to share best practice including through visits, focussing particularly on the rights of women, human rights and democratic and economic reform.

1.06. This delegation provided an opportunity for UK parliamentarians to engage with their colleagues in Malaysia, offering networking opportunities with Malaysian colleagues and allowing UK Members to enhance their knowledge of regional issues and challenges in Southeast Asia. The programme focussed on a range of issues relevant to the UK-Malaysia relationship, including trade and investment, foreign policy, defence and security cooperation, youth engagement, women's representation, and the people-to-people, scientific and educational links between the UK and Malaysia.





## Project Aim & Objectives

2.01. **Aim.** To build knowledge and understanding of shared national and sub-national issues through exchanges with parliamentary colleagues, and further develop the good relationship between the UK Parliament and national legislature of Malaysia.

## 2.02. Objectives

**Objective 1.** Foster a strong relationship between the UK Parliament and the Parliament of Malaysia, sharing challenges and solutions in parliamentary management, practice and procedure.

**Objective 2.** Discuss issues of mutual interest, including:

- The current political situation in the UK and Malaysia and foreign policy issues of relevance to the UK-Malaysia relationship
- The trade and investment relationship between the UK and Malaysia and the economic opportunities in both countries
- Approaches to tackling serious and organised crime, including modern slavery, child sexual exploitation and corruption

Defence and security cooperation between the UK and Malaysia, focusing on national security and terrorism prevention (including governmental prevention and de-radicalisation efforts.)

- Representation of women in parliament and public life, and parliamentarians' role in supporting and advocating for gender equality including the work of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP), which is currently chaired by YB Dato Noraini Hajah Ahmad MP
- Multicultural societies and integration
- The scientific and educational links between Malaysia and the UK and how parliaments can support innovation and technological development
- Youth engagement and the role of young people in politics and public life

**Objective 3.** Discuss Commonwealth leadership and the need for strategic planning. The UK will host CHOGM 2018 (to be called the Commonwealth Summit 2018) with Malaysia expected to host the summit in 2020.



## Delegation

3.01. The UK delegation comprised:

- Rt Hon. John Whittingdale OBE MP (Conservative) - *Delegation Leader*
- Sir David Amess MP (Conservative)
- Chris Leslie MP (Labour)
- Rt Hon. Baroness Northover (Liberal Democrat)
- Susie Latta, Head of International Outreach, CPA UK - *Delegation Secretary*

## Key Issues

### National Politics

4.01. Malaysia is a federal, constitutional monarchy where the appointment of the Monarch - the Head of State, rotates every five years through the Sultanate States. The head of the national government is the Prime Minister and is chosen by the federal parliament and appointed by the King (the Yang di-Pertuan Agong). Parliament is bi-cameral and is closely based on the Westminster system. The lower House of Representatives or Dewan Rakyat is directly elected by universal suffrage. The upper house is the Senate or Dewan Negara. Some Senators are elected by state assemblies and some appointed by the King, on the recommendation of the Prime Minister. The last election was in 2013 and the next will be called by the Prime Minister before August 2018.

### National Parliament

5.01. HE Tan Sri Datuk Seri Panglima Pandikar Amin Haji Mulia, Speaker of the Dewan Rakyat, welcomed the delegation to Parliament. Mr Speaker spoke of how he valued the Westminster approach to parliamentary democracy, his respect for Speaker Bercow and his fellow Commonwealth Speakers. But he stressed that Malaysia needs to find its own distinct approach. The Parliament does not for example have Prime Minister's Questions or urgent questions of Ministers. Ministers are called to answer questions from Members, but notice is given and the questions are submitted in advance. The Speaker felt this was important for accountability. Mr Speaker emphasised the need for robust debate but also orderly conduct in the chamber - a place where



*The delegation met with Mr Speaker*





Members needed to treat each other with respect. The delegation was questioned about aspects of Westminster parliamentary practice and procedure in particular the value of the Early Day Motion.

5.02. The delegation visited the Chamber of the Dewan Rakyat to hear a debate about the licencing of taxis services and Uber in particular. This something that was of interest to the delegation as the UK Parliament is dealing with similar issues.

5.03. There was discussion of the challenges and opportunities for the Malaysian Parliament and Government, and UK - Malaysia relations were discussed in a meeting with Dato Sri Azalina Othman Said MP, Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department and Chair of CPA Malaysia, and other Malaysian MPs and Senators. Discussions included the strength of UK-Malaysian relations and shared challenges.



*Hon. Azalina Othman Said MP, Minister and Chair of CPA Malaysia, other MPs and Senators and HE British High Commissioner to Malaysia*

There was agreement about the value that the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association brings to members and parliaments when visits such as these allow the sharing of ideas, challenges and the building of relationships. Hon. Othman Said has visited Westminster many times and the delegation hoped she would visit again soon.

5.04. Women in parliament was the theme of a meeting with YB Dato Noraini Hajah Ahmad MP, the Chair of Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP), which is a network of women Members of CPA legislatures. 10% of the Dewan Rakyat’s MPs are female (22 out of 220). The delegation heard about work to provide capacity building support to get more women elected to parliament and allow them to be effective in their roles. CWP also works to help parliaments become more gender-sensitive in all aspects of their role - legislation, oversight and representation.



*YB Dato Noraini Hajah Ahmad MP, Chair of Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians and other MPs and Senators*

5.05. The delegation shared experiences including discussing the abuse that parliamentarians received on and offline and discussed ways of combatting that abuse. They discussed the value of social media but also the challenges it presented to parliamentarians. The Malaysian MPs and Senators talked of some of the initiatives being taken forward in their Parliament including a proposed bill to ban hate speech and work to combat domestic violence. There was also discussion of the value of CPA UK’s January 2017





Human Rights Conference, the steps that had been taken since that event and the challenges faced. There was emphasis of the value of the relationships with and support of UK parliamentarians when trying to move forward on these complex issues.

## Regional Politics

6.01. State Assemblies in Malaysia provide regional leadership and have a Chief Minister. They are unicameral and legislate on issues such as land, public works and utilities, agriculture, forestry and Islamic law. The delegation had meetings with the Selangor and Melaka State Assemblies to hear about the different issues they face and to understand the relationship between the regional and federal parliaments and governments.

### Melaka State Assembly

7.01. Melaka State is in the south west of the Malay Peninsula next to the Straits of Melaka that separate Malaysia from Indonesia. Its strategically important location has given it a rich history. It was for example a centre for the trade of spices. Modern Melaka has a diverse, modern economy including a thriving tourist industry, most notably to Melaka city - a UNESCO world heritage site.



*Melaka River - part of the UNESCO world heritage site*



*Mr Speaker Othman Muhamad, at the Melaka State Assembly with Members of the Assembly*

7.01. The delegation was met by the Speaker of the Melaka Assembly, Datuk Othman Muhamad, and they discussed the historic links between Melaka and the UK, the way the economy was developing in the State and the value of international trade. The delegation heard about programmes on environmental sustainability, in particular in the palm oil industry and discussed shared challenges such as tackling obesity and providing opportunities for young people. The Assembly was not sitting so the delegation benefited from a full tour of the Assembly and many chances to discuss the way that the Assembly approaches its business.

### Selangor State Assembly

8.01. Selangor State is in the centre west of the Malay Peninsula and is both the most populous state in Malaysia and has the largest GDP, accounting for 25% of national GDP. The wealth historically came from mining but it now has a diverse and thriving economy. The Assembly is opposition controlled.





8.02. The Speaker, Hon. Hannah Yeoh, is both the first female speaker in Malaysia and the youngest ever. Ms Yeoh told the delegation how she took the role to combine her work as a politician with raising a family and how the Assembly has 30% women members, the highest proportion in Malaysia. She represents a mixed-cultural and multi-faith party and she feels this is the way forward for Malaysia. She stressed her commitment to lively, issues based debates in the chamber, where a range of minority views were heard. She highlighted the role that the Assembly had played in tackling corruption and introducing a freedom of information act.



*Madam Speaker, Hannah Yeoh at the Selangor State Assembly*

8.03. The Speaker welcomed the delegation warmly to the chamber and the delegation was able to observe the many similarities to the Westminster system, including the Mace being placed on the table before the Speaker to open the session, and many similarities in standing orders.

8.04. The delegation met with the Chief Minister of Selangor, Dato Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali, and assembly members from the PKR and PAS parties. Delegates heard about some of the challenges that the opposition-controlled state and its members faced. The close links between Malaysia and the UK were highlighted, in particular the education links. Parliamentarians in Malaysia valued the international support they receive and extended their thanks for the support they receive from UK Parliamentarians. Concerns were raised with the delegation about the process for the forthcoming elections, corruption and there were allegations of harassment of opposition members.



*Observing the Selangor State Assembly*

## International Affairs, Foreign Policy, Defence and Security

9.01. The delegation had several meetings to gain an understanding of the international and regional issues that Malaysia is facing and what this means for UK-Malaysia relations.

9.02. Terrorism and extremism is a concern across the world and in South East Asia many countries have seen a rise in the number of citizens radicalised, and terrorist incidents. There has not been a major terrorist incident in Malaysia and the delegation heard about the considerable efforts and successes by the police and security services to prevent attacks. Malaysians have travelled to fight in Syria and Iraq, some have been killed and Malaysia is expecting a number of radicalised fighters to return.





9.03. In an interesting meeting with youth leaders working to counter violent extremism the delegation heard how people are gradually persuaded to support radical Islam, through an initial humanitarian desire to support the victims of war, but financial support is actually sent to finance terrorism. It was suggested that many people turn to radical Islam in frustration about other things such as poverty, lack of opportunity or open debate. On a more hopeful note, there was praise for the work by moderate Islamic clerics in de-radicalising individuals in prison, of work to create interfaith dialogue and to provide alternative, positive means of self-expression such as art and sport. These were cited as ways of preventing and countering violent extremism.

9.04. At a roundtable with the think tank, the Institute for Strategic & International Studies, the delegation was briefed on Malaysian foreign policy priorities, including the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and relationships with global powers including the UK, US, China and India. Malaysia is a member of ASEAN and plays an active role in the region. Current issues faced are cross border issues with the Southern Philippines, where there is a threat of terrorism and separatists. There are also issues with Southern Thailand with cross border criminal gangs, which the two countries are working together to counter. The delegation heard about the ongoing disputes with China over the South China Sea, where Malaysia has an interest. North Korea is providing a challenge for the whole region. Malaysia has traditionally played a neutral and mediating role, but after the death of the half-brother of the North Korean leader in Kuala Lumpur airport in February 2017 and the ensuing diplomatic crisis, Malaysia has taken a harder line against the North Korean leadership.

9.05. The power and growth of China is felt very keenly in the region. China is developing very fast and particularly its military and technological development was discussed with a mix of awe and fear. China is investing significant funds in Malaysia and allowing technology transfer, which is much valued. India is also an important power in the region but is not investing on the same scale. Japan has been a long-term investment partner in Malaysia and the region.

9.06. Relations with the Middle East and Arabian Gulf states have been evolving over the past few years. The inspiration for Malaysia as an Islamic state came from the Iranian revolution, but over the years Malaysia has been distancing itself from Iran and becoming closer to Saudi Arabia. The increasing demand for Haj visas has led to closer relations and more alignment in their foreign policy. There has been considerable investment from the Gulf in Malaysia and Malaysia has provided support to Saudi Arabia in its campaign in Yemen.

9.07. Malaysia's role in the Commonwealth was discussed in a number of different meetings. Malaysia is expected to host the Commonwealth Summit in 2020 and has traditionally played an active role in the Commonwealth. There was discussion about the role of the Commonwealth in modern Malaysia. There was value by many people of the links that the Commonwealth provides and the shared approach that it gives. The opportunity for countries such as Malaysia to receive and offer support to other, smaller countries was welcomed and there was considerable value given, for example, to the Westminster parliamentary





approach. The Commonwealth Summit in 2020 is just one of many examples about how Malaysia invests in and offers leadership within the Commonwealth, although the delegation was told that there is untapped potential.



*Malaysian National Monument*

9.08. The UK and Malaysia have a shared military and defence history and in commemoration of this the delegation paid their respects at the National Monument to those who died in Malaysia's struggle for freedom, principally



*Kuala Lumpur Cenotaph*

against the Japanese occupation during World War II and the Malayan Emergency. The delegation also saw the Kuala Lumpur Cenotaph to remember the British Malay dead in the First and Second World Wars.

## Economics and Trade

10.1. Exploring trade and investment opportunities in Malaysia was a key objective of the delegation's visit and many of the meetings examined this issue. The future trading relationship with the world following the UK's withdrawal from the European Union was discussed. We heard about existing trading relationships between the EU and Malaysia which is strong - the EU is Malaysia's third biggest trading partner after Singapore and China. There is not currently a free trade agreement in place as there are issues around the environment, human rights and intellectual property rights that have delayed any agreement, and talks were paused in 2012.

10.2. Malaysia is one of the partners in the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) although the future of this agreement is now uncertain after the withdrawal of the United States. One major implication of the TPP agreement, if it goes ahead, is that Malaysia will have to totally reform its trade union legislation by the end of 2018.

10.3. The delegation meet with MATRADE, the Malaysian External Trade Development Corporation. They felt that the prospects for a trade deal with the UK after it leaves the European Union were positive, and the delegation were reassured that discussions could begin quickly if UK negotiators were available and were clear about what the UK could offer Malaysia after leaving the European Union. Relationships are





already strong with British businesses with a large number of British companies represented in Malaysia and a thriving British Malaysian Chamber of Commerce which has already begun thinking about future opportunities.

10.4. An important aspect of UK-Malaysian trade is the trade in services. The delegation heard from the Central Bank of Malaysia about Islamic finance, and developments and opportunities around Sharia-compliant banking practices. In Islam no interest can be charged and so special contracts are drawn up which ensure that investments are ethical, theologically sound and provide a share of profits for the investor. Malaysia is a world leader in Islamic finance and the delegation heard that there are valuable opportunities for the UK financial services and financial technology sectors. There is currently not enough supply of high quality Islamic finance to meet the demand. The UK is an attractive place to do financial business because of its credit ratings which provide secure and profitable investments. This is a large market and there is considerable investment available if the UK can seize this opportunity.

10.5. UK education is highly respected and valued in Malaysia, with Malaysian students currently forming the second largest group of overseas students in UK universities, after China. Some top schools and universities have taken the opportunity to open up campuses in Malaysia and the delegation visited one of the pioneers of this approach - the University of Nottingham, which opened a new campus in 2000. It now has 5,000 students and 700 staff. The delegation was warmly welcomed and heard about how the University was attracting students from Malaysia and across Asia with an attractive combination of



*University of Nottingham Campus in Kuala Lumpur*

the high standards and the respected name of a UK university, but at considerably lower costs to studying in the UK. Being based in Malaysia was also offering interesting research opportunities, such as being able to study elephants in the wild.

10.6. The digital and innovation sector is a fast-growing sector in Malaysia, as a stable, English-speaking base which gives access to the ASEAN market. High speed broadband, extensive investment in the digital infrastructure and a highly-educated population all make it a good place to do business.

10.7. The delegation visited the Malaysia Digital Hub and Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation which are supporting and encouraging innovators and entrepreneurs from Malaysia, and attracting people from across the world to be based in Malaysia and



Kuala Lumpur in particular. The delegation heard about the entrepreneur visa that gives one to five years' residency depending on experience and the level of development of the company.

**Social and Domestic Affairs**

11.1. Much progress has been made in Malaysia on human rights and the support for women and children in particular. There have been significant improvements in healthcare, education and equal opportunities there is a great deal of support available to the least advantaged members of society. The delegation met with grassroots campaigning groups working on issues as diverse as ending modern slavery, campaigning for minority and migrant



*Civil society groups representing Women and Children*

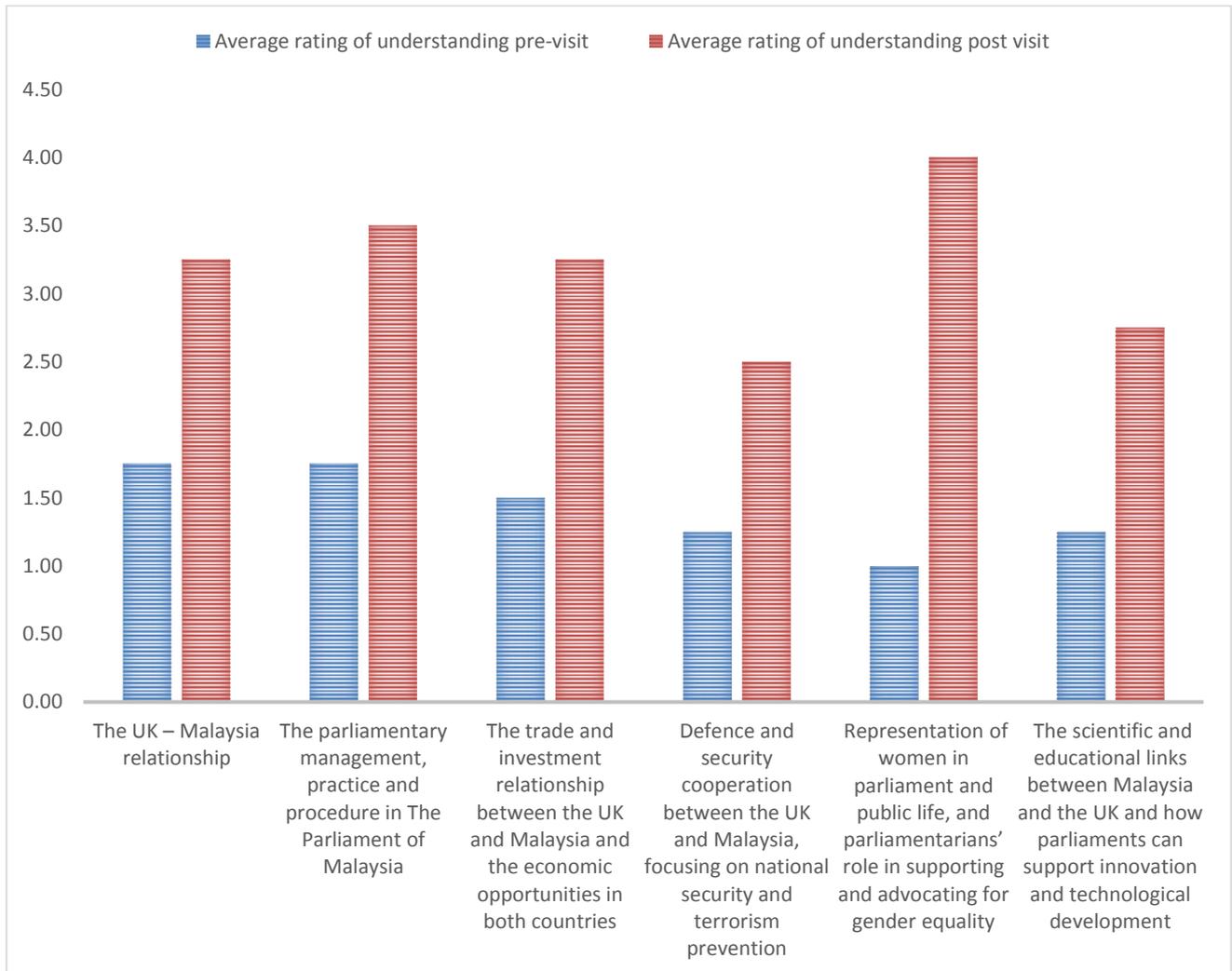
rights, improving children's rights, the struggles to recognise the rights of people with disabilities and those who are LGBTI, who are considerably marginalised and sometimes prosecuted in Malaysia. Pressure has led to changes and improvements but there was still progress to be made in some areas. Progressive Islamisation of some aspects of society had seen a rise in child marriage and female genital mutilation. In meeting with groups representing women and children, we heard from the British High Commissioner, HE Vicki Treadell MVO, about the support that the British government was providing in attempting to reduce violence against women and girls.

11.2. The delegation met with young people from the British High Commission's Successor Generation Initiative (SGI) that was launched in 2015 to deepen the UK's relationship with future leaders across a number of fields in Malaysia. Many had studied and visited the UK and we heard of exciting and innovative projects and new business ventures, which bode well for the future of Malaysia-UK relations.



## Results of the Project

12.1. The delegation was asked to rate their understanding of the UK-Malaysia relationship, and their knowledge of Malaysia on a number of criteria linked to the aim and objectives of the delegation, before and after the visit. The results showed a significant increase in understanding on all the measures which are shown in the graph below.



12.2. Feedback from the delegation was that the programme addressed the issues identified at the beginning of the programme well. This included facilitating a good understanding of UK Malaysian relations; Malaysian governance - both federal and regional; relationships with the UK education sector and the issues ahead of the election in 2018. A few adjustments to the programme allowed more insight into the culture of the country.

12.3. On return from the visit the delegation members noted their desire to raise issues from the visit in the UK Parliament. Members of the delegation will be talking to the All Party Parliamentary Group on



Malaysia and the Foreign Office Minister responsible for the region and maintaining links to those that they met in Malaysia, including those studying in the UK. There was a commitment to support those furthering the interests of women in Malaysia and to follow up on the issue of election observers monitoring the forthcoming elections.

12.4. Areas which warrant further exploration include trade relations and business links, counter-terrorism cooperation and de-radicalisation,

12.5. Finally, the delegation expressed their thanks for an informative programme with excellent support. They are grateful to the Malaysian Parliament and all the Malaysian they met for the warm welcome.

## Next Steps

13.1.

- The delegation thanks the UK's Malaysian APPG for their briefing in advance of the visit and wishes to feed back its results to the Group
- The UK and Malaysia share a threat of terrorism and face the challenge of countering radicalisation. There is much our two countries can learn from each other and the delegation would like to recommend ongoing cooperation
- There are opportunities for even closer UK - Malaysian trade links after the UK leaves the EU. The delegation would like to commend Malaysia as a priority country for an early trade agreement
- There are many business opportunities in Malaysia which is a fast growing, strong and stable, economy which is very closely aligned to the UK's way of doing things. The delegation will work to promote these opportunities
- Malaysia is active in promoting an equal role for women, both within and without Parliament and the State Assemblies. CPA UK looks forward to working closely with the women of Malaysia to strengthen the role and rights of women in all aspects of political life and beyond
- The UK has close education ties with Malaysia. Members of the delegation would like to continue to promote these links and the value of UK education overseas
- The delegation stresses the value of Commonwealth Election Observers and commends their use as a way forward for the forthcoming Malaysian elections

## Acknowledgements

15.1. CPA UK thanks the following for their support of the delegation:

- Parliament of Malaysia
- CPA Malaysia
- Melaka State Assembly
- Selangor State Assembly
- British High Commission, Kuala Lumpur
- FCO South East Asia Dept
- University of Nottingham in Malaysia
- UK Parliament All Party Parliamentary Group for Malaysia
- Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians
- Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation, the Malaysia Digital Hub and Worq
- Successor Generation Initiative, Malaysia
- Malaysia Central Bank and Malaysia International Islamic Financial Centre Promotions Unit
- Institute for Strategic and International Studies
- Civil Society Organisations working on Countering Violent Extremism - ABIM, IKRAM, KMU, and IMAN
- Women's Action Group - WAO, AWAM, AWL, SIS, WCC, PWW and Tenaganita
- MATRADE, the Malaysian External Trade Development Corporation

15.2. The delegation and CPA UK wishes to thank everyone who meet with the delegation and was involved in the organisation and support of the visit.

## Annex A - Full Programme

Monday 24 July	
07.30	<p><b>Breakfast Briefing with British High Commissioner to Malaysia</b>            HE Vicki Treadell MVO, <i>British High Commissioner to Malaysia</i>            Tom Soper, <i>First Secretary (Political), British High Commission Kuala Lumpur</i></p>
09.00	<p><b>Visit to Selangor State Assembly</b>            Hon Hannah Yeoh, <i>Speaker of the Selangor State Assembly</i></p>
12.00	<p><b>Lunch with members of the Selangor State Assembly</b></p>
15.00	<p><b>Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC)</b>  <i>Briefing and tour of new digital hub. Showcase UK and Malaysian collaboration in the tech sector - a priority sector for Department for International Trade.</i></p>
19.30	<p><b>Dinner with Successor Generation Initiative representatives</b>  <i>The Successor Generation Initiative (SGI) was launched in 2015 and provides opportunities to young people to develop leadership skills, attend high-profile round table discussions and exclusive networking events. Through SGI, youths are given the opportunities to have their voice heard.</i></p>
Tuesday 25 July	
08.00	<p><b>Breakfast Meeting with Malaysia Central Bank on Islamic Finance</b>            Shazmeer Mokhtar, <i>Deputy Director, Malaysia International Islamic Financial Centre (MIFC) Promotions Unit</i>            Azilah Ahmad, <i>Manager, Malaysia International Islamic Financial Centre (MIFC) Promotions Unit</i>            Amran Zaki, <i>Malaysia International Islamic Financial Centre (MIFC) Promotions Unit</i></p> <p><i>In the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report, Malaysia ranks particularly highly (and ahead of the UK) for its goods market efficiency and financial market development, possibly owing to its leading role in Islamic Finance development. Malaysia and the UK are strengthening collaboration in the development of Islamic Finance. The Battersea Power Station project will utilise syndicated Islamic financial facilities of £467mn.</i></p> <p><b>Objectives:</b>  <i>Discuss opportunities and challenges in Islamic Finance in Malaysia and globally. Focus on synergies between Islamic Finance and Fintech, including their joint impact on poverty reduction, financial inclusion as well as SME empowerment.</i></p>
09.30	<p><b>Think-tank roundtable - Institute for Strategic and International Studies</b></p>



	<i>Discuss Malaysian foreign policy priorities, including ASEAN and geopolitical relationships with global powers including the UK, US, China and India.</i>
10.45	<b>Visit to National Monument Park</b> <i>The National Monument is a sculpture that commemorates those who died in Malaysia's struggle for freedom, principally against the Japanese occupation during World War II and the Malayan Emergency, which lasted from 1948 until 1960.</i>
12.00	<b>Lunch with local media editors</b> Informal discussion with editors from local media outlets
15.00	<b>Meeting with Civil Society Organisations to discuss Countering Violent Extremism</b>
16.30	<b>Meeting with Women's Action Group</b> <i>Hear from Civil Society Organisations and activists on challenges around the women and children agenda in Malaysia.</i>
18.00	<b>Evening Reception with guests from politics and civil society</b> Location: High Commissioner's Residence
<b>Wednesday 26 July</b>	
09.00	<b>Visit to University of Nottingham Kuala Lumpur Campus</b> <i>Presentation by Professor Ong Fon-Sim and campus tour</i>
10.45	<i>Transfer to Parliament of Malaysia</i>
12.00	<b>Courtesy Call on Speaker of the Dewan Rakyat</b> HE Tan Sri Datuk Seri Panglima Pandikar Amin Haji Mulia, <i>Speaker of the Dewan Rakyat</i>
13.00	<b>Lunch with Members of CPA Malaysia</b> Dato Sri Azalina Othman Said MP, <i>Minister in the Prime Minister's Department and Chair of CPA Malaysia</i>
14.30	<b>View Proceedings in the House of Representatives</b>
15.00	<b>Meeting with Chair of Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians</b> YB Dato Noraini Hajah Ahmad MP, <i>Chair of Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians</i>
	<b>Meeting with MATRADE, the Malaysian External Trade Development Corporation</b>
<b>Thursday 27 July</b>	
	Visit to Melaka State Assembly





## Annex B - Delegate Biographies



### Rt Hon. John Whittingdale OBE MP (Conservative)

John Whittingdale has been Member of Parliament for Maldon in Essex since 1992. John was educated at Winchester College and University College, London, where he graduated with a degree in economics. Having been Head of the Political Section in the Conservative Research Department, he was appointed Special Adviser to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry in 1984, serving three successive Secretaries of State until 1987. He then went to work at NM Rothschild Merchant

Bank in the City before returning to Government work in 1989 when he was appointed Political Secretary to the then Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher. He continued in that role until Margaret Thatcher left office in 1990 and he was awarded the OBE in her resignation honours list.

In 1992, John was elected Member of Parliament for South Colchester and Maldon. He served as a member of the House of Commons Select Committee on Health from 1993 to 1997 and was also Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Minister for Education and Employment between 1994 and 1996.

In 1997, John was elected to represent the new constituency of Maldon and East Chelmsford. He spent a year as an Opposition Whip and in 1998 was appointed a front bench Treasury spokesman. Following this, in 1999 he became Parliamentary Private Secretary to the then Leader of the Opposition, William Hague. After the 2001 General Election, John was appointed to the Shadow Cabinet as Shadow Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and in July, 2002 Shadow Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. Following a year covering the Agriculture portfolio, John returned as Shadow Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport in September 2004 - leaving the post after the election in 2005. In July 2005 he was elected Chairman of the House of Commons Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee, a position that he held until 2015.

Following the 2015 General Election, John was appointed Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport in David Cameron's Conservative Government and became a member of the Privy Council. During his time as Secretary of State, he oversaw the drafting of the new BBC Charter and also had policy responsibility for Telecommunications, Internet and new Media, Broadcasting, Press Regulation, Tourism, Gambling, Arts, Museums, Heritage, the Music, Film and Electronic Games industries and Sport. He stepped down from this position following the change of Prime Minister in July 2016.

John was Vice Chairman of the Conservative Parliamentary 1922 Committee representing all Conservative Members of the House of Commons from 2006 to 2015. From 2006 to 2010, John was also one of three Parliamentary representatives on the Board of the Conservative Party. John was a member of the Campaign Committee for the Vote Leave Campaign in the EU Referendum in 2016.

John is a member of the Executive of the British Group of the Inter Parliamentary Union. He is also Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Groups for Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova.





## **Chris Leslie MP (Labour)**

Chris Leslie was a Councillor on Bradford Council 1994-1998, and in 1997 was elected Member of Parliament for Shipley, overturning a Conservative majority of 12,000. He held several positions in the Labour Government, including Ministerial posts in the Department for Constitutional Affairs, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Cabinet Office.

He narrowly lost his seat in 2005 and then became Director of the New Local Government Network, a local government research organisation campaigning for the devolution of power from Whitehall to local authorities.

He was elected Member of Parliament for Nottingham East in 2010, and has held the posts of Shadow Treasury Minister, Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury and Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer. In the 2015-17 Parliament he served on the International Trade Select Committee.



## **Sir David Amess MP (Conservative)**

Sir David was born in Plaistow in 1952, educated at a Roman Catholic grammar school in Newham and took a degree in economics at Bournemouth College of Technology. He pursued a varied career as a primary school teacher, an underwriter and head of an agency group supplying accountants. He stood in the Labour stronghold of Newham North West in 1979, before winning the Basildon seat from Labour in 1983. When his seat was broken up in a boundary review he was elected to Southend West in 1997.

He was briefly Parliamentary Private Secretary to Edwina Currie, then to Lord Skelmersdale, and for nine years to Michael Portillo through most of his ministerial career.

Keen on animal welfare, he has introduced short Bills on the licensing of performing wild animals in circuses, control of tethered animals and the sales of pets. He has sponsored a large number of Private Members' Bills. In 1999 he was successful with a Bill to create a programme of action for home heating and the reduction of fuel poverty, which became the Warm Homes Act 2000. He has since piloted several other Private Members Bills onto the statute book, including one on Security Printing and his latest Bill on Driving Instructor Registration.

Sir David is a member of the Speaker's Panel of Chairs and the Administration Committee.





### **Baroness Northover (Liberal Democrats)**

Baroness Lindsay Northover is the Liberal Democrats Lead Spokesperson on Foreign Affairs in the House of Lords.

She was Minister for Africa in the Department for International Development (DFID) 2014-15. Prior to that, she served in the Coalition Government in a number of Government departments, including those of Health, Education, Energy and Climate Change, Justice, and Women and Equalities.

Lindsay Northover is the UK's Trade Envoy to Angola. Her first degree was from Oxford University, and her Master's and PhD are from the USA. She was formerly an academic at University College London.



### **Susie Latta (Delegation Secretary)**

Susie Latta is Head of International Outreach in which she leads CPA UK's work on planning and delivering an annual programme of international outreach programmes on behalf of Westminster.

Prior to joining CPA UK she has held many roles in the private, public and charitable sectors and has organised a number of high profile conferences and events in the UK and overseas. Most recently she was Operations Director for The Democratic Society. She has a BA in Combined Social Science from Durham University and an MSc in Development Management from the Open University.



## About the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK

CPA UK is one of the largest and most active branches in the CPA community and delivers a unique annual international outreach programme in Westminster and overseas. CPA UK works to encourage parliamentary diplomacy and build parliamentary capacity on behalf of the UK Parliament and the wider CPA. Through activities such as conferences, seminars, delegations and parliamentary strengthening teams, CPA UK provides Members with a practical, current and first-hand perspective on international issues facing fellow parliamentarians across the Commonwealth. Working with CPA UK's international outreach programmes also enhances Members' understanding of issues facing diaspora communities in their own constituencies. For more information, visit [www.uk-cpa.org](http://www.uk-cpa.org)