Professional diplomacy and foreign affairs management are fascinating fields and undergraduates should consider a professional career in them.

As such, the Gandhi Memorial Trust of Malaysia (GTM) and the Asian Law Students Association of Malaysia (ALSA) have organised a panel discussion entitled, “An Ambassador’s Insight into Professional Diplomacy and Foreign Affairs Management.”

The 5pm talk on April 16 will be held at the Tun Suffian Auditorium at Universiti Malaya.

The panellists are Tan Sri Ajit Singh and Datuk Dr Rajmah Hussain from Malaysia, and Ong Keng Yong and Declan Kelly, the High Commissioners of Singapore and Ireland, respectively.

GTM chairman S. Radhakrishnan said they were holding the discussion at the university so students had the opportunity to better understand the role and responsibility of a diplomat and help them consider professional diplomacy as a career.

The other reason, he added, was to clear the mystery surrounding the work of a diplomat.

Ajit, who joined the Malaysian Foreign Service in 1963, served as ambassador to Vietnam, Austria, Brazil (with concurrent accreditation to Bolivia, Colombia, Peru and Venezuela) and Germany, and was elected Asean’s first secretary-general (1993-1999).

A member of the Malaysia-India CEO Forum, he was appointed to the Indian Prime Minister’s Global Advisory Council of Overseas Indians in 2009 and awarded India’s highest award for an overseas Indian, the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award, by the Indian Government last year.

Dr Rajmah, was in the service for 32 years, having stints as ambassador to the United States, France (with concurrent accreditation to Portugal), Austria (with concurrent accreditation to the Slovak Republic), and as Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

Currently an Adjunct Professor at Universiti Malaya’s Department of

Ong joined the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1979. He was ambassador to India (1996 – 1998) with concurrent accreditation to Nepal and was ASEAN secretary-general from 2003 to 2008.

Kelly, who joined the Irish Foreign Service in 1973, served as ambassador to Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Canada, Jamaica and the Bahamas prior to his posting here in 2010.

The discussion is open to the public. Admission is free.

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