

### Korean diplomat's Malay proficiency impresses at national day event

THE South Korean National Day reception at a hotel ballroom in Kuala Lumpur was packed despite the bad weather and traffic congestion.

South Korean Embassy charge d'affaires Kim Junpyo stole the show with his remarks after exchanging toasts with special guest, Housing and Local Government Minister Zuraida Kamaruddin.

Kim interspersed his speech, which he delivered without a prepared text, with English, Bahasa Malaysia and Korean.

He used terms such as *kemakmuran bersama* (shared prosperity) and even recited pantun much to the delight of guests.

"It was back in 1960 that South Korea and Malaysia began our diplomatic relations.

"Year 2020 will see the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties. A grand celebration is

expected next year," he said.

Kim added that South Korea and Malaysia had weathered the 1998 Asian financial crisis and recovered through better financial measures and policies.

"But much still needs to be accomplished to achieve greater economic growth and increase our bilateral economic cooperation."

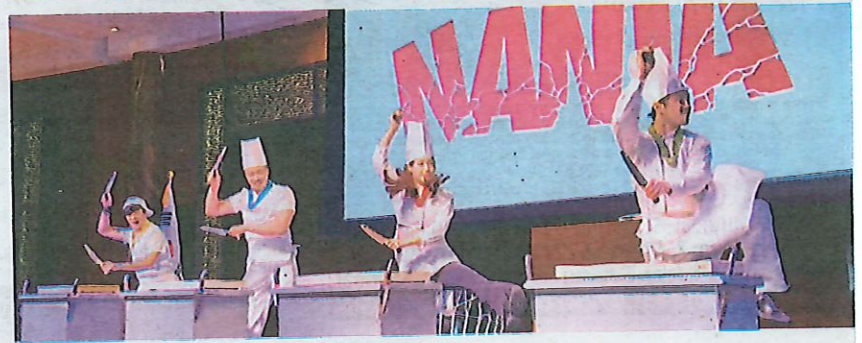
Among those impressed with Kim's address was Datin Ho Choy Meng, who is the president of the Malaysian Investors' Association.

"He gave a very inspiring speech and spoke with great fluency in Bahasa Malaysia, which is very admirable for a foreign diplomat," she added.

Guests at the Grand Hyatt Hotel were later entertained to an adrenaline charged performance of Cooking Nanta by four chefs who used carving knives and chopping boards as part of their stage props. — By PAUL GABRIEL



Zuraida chatting with Kim and his wife Shin Eunah at the South Korean National Day reception.



(Below) The Cooking Nanta performance by four chefs captivated guests.