Wisma Putra this time conducted high-level travels all over the world.

Wherever they could, whether at international conferences in Samoa or bilateral visits to countries like Kazakhstan, the team has been meeting their counterparts and lobbying to secure the votes. Malaysia formally submitted its candidacy for the 2015-2016 term on June 15, 2001, shortly after concluding its UNSC membership for the 1999-2000 term.

The 2015-2016 term was selected, among other reasons, because it was the earliest term to be uncontested for the Asia Pacific Group at that point in time. The last election Malaysia was vying for the seat to be vacated by Japan. This year Kuala Lumpur is vying for the seat to be vacated by South Korea.

So in the "campaigns" conducted by Malaysia, the team has been engaging with member states. "We are not just lobbying their support, but we are also taking the advantage by exchanging views with different countries on issues of concern on the UNSC's agenda," said an official.

It is something much appreciated by several African, eastern European and Latin American countries as Malaysia is willing to hear the diverse views from other regions on issues of peace and international security.

Malaysia believes moderation provides the best approach in resolving differences and conflicts peacefully and because of this, it decided to give the theme to the UNSC campaign of "Peace and Security Through Moderation".



Malaysia achieved its best record in 1998, at a time when the country was undergoing economic and political turmoil.

Officials believed that moderation, which has been successfully practised by Malaysia and other Asean neighbours, could be applied to other conflicts and situations in other parts of the world. While some issues around the world are getting to be more complex, other old issues are still on the table.

The situation in Syria, sectarian violence, the Sunni-Shia conflict or managing the territorial dispute in the South China Sea must be addressed. It will be interesting how Malaysia, when it is eventually elected to the seat, plays its role on the global stage.

Malaysia should not just be warming up the seat. There are many challenges and issues waiting ahead.

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