

Press release



Malaysia Wins Bid to Host the 9TH World Urban Forum 2018



- ***Malaysia is the second Asian country (after China in 2008) to host the WUF, and this will be the first forum to be held after the Post-2015 Development Agenda Process and the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development-Habitat III in 2016.***

Kuala Lumpur, 11 NOVEMBER 2014 – Following a six-month bidding process, Malaysia emerged victorious to host the 9th World Urban Forum 2018 (WUF9) in April 2018 which will be organized by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) together with the Ministry of Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government, Malaysia.

“The WUF9 adds to the roll call of prestigious international events hosted in Malaysia. Malaysia was chosen as the host venue because of the concerted effort of the bidding team and also of Malaysia’s commitment towards sustainable urban development. Some 10,000 international delegates are expected to attend the WUF9,” said Zulkefli Hj Sharif, CEO, Malaysia Convention & Exhibition Bureau (MyCEB).

United Nations Under-Secretary-General and UN-Habitat Executive Director, Dr. Joan Clos congratulated Malaysia on hosting the Forum, “*At the World Urban Forum, thousands of stakeholders meet every two years to share practices and knowledge on how cities are built, planned and managed*”, he said.

Also known as the World’s Premier Conference on Cities, the WUF9 has been recognized as the leading international event to examine the most pressing issues facing the world today in the area of human settlements, including rapid urbanization and its impact on cities, communities, economies, climate changes and policies. The main objective of the event is to advocate and raise awareness on sustainable urban development through open debates and exchange of experiences and best practices. WUF9 will also aim to enhance coordination and cooperation within and between different constituencies towards the advancement and implementation of the UN’s Habitat agenda.

Recent International Conferences

The WUF9 adds to the growing list of landmark events that MyCEB has played a role to assist local industry to bid for and win the rights to host international events. Its impressive list includes previous events such as; the 7th International Aids Society Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention 2013 and the XXV International Federation of Surveyors Congress 2014, while upcoming highlights include Cityscape Malaysia 2015 and the World Federation of Hemophilia World Congress 2020.

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NOTE TO EDITORS

About the Malaysia Convention & Exhibition Bureau (MyCEB)

MyCEB was established in 2009 by Ministry of Tourism & Culture, Malaysia to further strengthen Malaysia's business tourism brand and position for the international business events market. A non-profit organisation, MyCEB serves as a central hub to assist meeting and event planners to bid for and stage international business events in Malaysia and act as a conduit for national product development. MyCEB's goal is to improve its rankings as an international meetings destination within International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA) and to grow business tourism arrivals to Malaysia.

In November 2011, MyCEB unveiled its business events tagline, 'Malaysia – Asia's Business Events Hub' which encompasses its aim to communicate Malaysia's proposition as a gateway to Asia for meetings – where many of Asia's diverse cultures, languages and lifestyles are represented and have merged through a long history of trade and meetings. Last year, MyCEB (Business Events Division) supported 42 associations and 91 corporate incentive groups representing 81,350 delegates to organize their events in Malaysia. The country has also played host to 106 meetings and conventions, 18 exhibitions and 109 corporate incentive groups.

Malaysia Major Events, previously known as International Events Unit (IEU) is another division of Malaysia Convention & Exhibition Bureau (MyCEB). It focuses on identifying and supporting major event bids for sports, arts, lifestyle and entertainment events. It also assists home grown and home hosted events as well as other cluster events that strengthen Malaysia's global appeal as an international avenue for major events. For more information, please visit www.myceb.com.my and follow us on www.facebook.com/MyCEB and Twitter (@MyCEB).

About World Urban Forum

The World Urban Forum (WUF) has been established through the General Assembly resolution 56/206 in 2001 as a non-legislative technical forum, is convened by UN-Habitat and hosted in a different city every two years. WUF has been recognized as the foremost global arena of major international events to examine the most pressing issues facing the world today in the area of human settlements, including rapid urbanization and its impact on cities, communities, economies, climate change and policies. It is the World's Premier Conference on Cities.

The objectives and mode of work of the Forum were adopted during the First session of the Forum which was held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 29 April to 3 May 2002. The Second session took place in Barcelona, Spain, 13-17 September 2004; the Third in Vancouver, Canada, 19-23 June 2006; the Fourth session in Nanjing, China, 3-6 November 2008, the Fifth session in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 22-26 March 2010, the Sixth session in Naples, Italy, 1-7 September 2012 and the Seventh session in Medellín, Colombia, from 5-11 April 2014.

The participation in the Forum has seen an increase over the last years and steadied at around 22,000 attendees from all over the world in WUF7.

... The Forum gathers a wide range of experts from every walk of life. Participants at the Forum include, but are not limited to; national, regional and local governments, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, professionals, research institutions and academies, professionals, private sector, development finance institutions, foundations, media and United Nations organizations and other international agencies.

The main goals of the World Urban Forum are:

- Advocate for and raise awareness on sustainable urban development
- Advance the collective knowledge on sustainable urbanization through inclusive open debates, and exchange of experiences and best practices
- Further coordination and cooperation within and between different constituencies towards the advancement and implementation of the Habitat Agenda

(Source: <http://unhabitat.org/kuala-lumpur-to-host-world-urban-forum-in-2018/>)

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