

Press Release

For immediate release

MALAYSIA TO HOST WORLD TUNNEL CONGRESS IN 2020

Malaysia attracts another world class business event after winning bid to host World Tunnel Congress (WTC) 2020

KUALA LUMPUR, 17 JULY 2017: Malaysia continues to elevate its status as a knowledge and creative hub after winning the bid to host the World Tunnel Congress (WTC) from 15 to 21 May 2020 at Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre.

The announcement was made at the recent 43rd International Tunneling and Underground Space Association (ITA) general assembly in Norway. Besides WTC 2020, Malaysia will also host the 46th ITA general assembly during the congress.

With the strong support of Malaysia Convention & Exhibition Bureau (MyCEB), an agency under the Ministry of Tourism and Culture Malaysia, the hosting of WTC 2020, themed “Innovation and Sustainable Underground Serving Global Connectivity”, is set to draw more than 1,200 attendees from the global tunneling and underground construction industry. The event is expected to deliver RM17.2 million in estimated economic impact to the country.

Dato’ Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz, Minister of Tourism and Culture said: “Malaysia is set to play a key role in the future of sustainability through the impact of WTC 2020. We are perfectly geared to showcase our capabilities in holding world-class critical sustainability events with leading experts that will reap benefits for Malaysia’s growth in the next few years.

“The rise of business events provides a reason to accelerate discussions and collaborations with government stakeholders to help construct the framework for the future of sustainability. Along with Malaysia’s ambitious economic objectives to achieve high-income status by 2020, events of high-value and impact such as WTC 2020 projects excellent opportunities,” he continued.

Datuk Zulkefli Hj. Sharif, Chief Executive Officer of MyCEB said: “We are proud that Malaysia remains as an important international business events destination that continues to attract high profile events. WTC 2020 will be a good platform to create opportunities for specialists and professionals to gather and share information with leading experts in the industry.

“For the past seven years, MyCEB together with its strategic partners have secured 807 international business events comprising of international conference, corporate meetings, incentive travel and trade exhibition events which will essentially add an estimated RM5.2 billion into Malaysia’s economic impact. This continues to drive Malaysia’s positive momentum in the business events industry,” said Datuk Zulkefli.

WTC 2020 is expected to be the largest engineering event of its kind in Malaysia by The Institution of Engineers Malaysia (IEM) and will serve as an exchange point for engineers and professionals to network over the latest trends and innovations in tunneling and underground construction industry.

Dr Ooi Teik Aun, IEM's Tunneling and Underground Space Technical Division founder chairman said: "In line with IEM's mission to create a platform towards nation building and striving to enhance society's consciousness of science and technology, hosting WTC 2020 and ITA general assembly here will be conducive to the attainment of IEM's objectives."

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About MyCEB

MyCEB was established in 2009 by Ministry of Tourism and 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 December 2016, MyCEB mapped out the way forward for Malaysia in business events with the launch of '**Malaysia's Business Events Roadmap: Charting Malaysia's Journey to 2020 and Beyond**'. In helping to power Malaysia's knowledge and creative economy, the business events roadmap will lay the groundwork, set up and manage the platforms for collaboration and support the development of strong local hosts. The country has also played host to 65 associations and conventions, 28 exhibitions and 283 corporate meeting and incentive groups in 2016.

With a total of **1691 events** for the past seven years and delivering an estimated economic impact of **RM8.66 billion**, Malaysia is on track to drive positive momentum for the business events industry.

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.

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