

Press release

KUALA LUMPUR HOSTS THE FIRST TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION, OUTSIDE NORTH AMERICA



Upcoming Toastmasters' 2014 International Convention will be held in Malaysia for the first time ever outside North America in its 90-year history.

Kuala Lumpur, 6 August 2014 – Kuala Lumpur will chalk up another notch on its already brimming belt of “Firsts” with the upcoming 2014 Toastmasters International Convention set to be held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre from 20-23 August 2014.

For the first time in its 90-year history, Toastmasters is holding its International Convention beyond the shores of North America and right across the globe into Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This Convention which targets 2,000 participants from around the world is estimated to generate RM32.4 million in economic impact for Malaysia.

According to Zulkefli Haji Sharif, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Malaysia Convention & Exhibition Bureau (MyCEB), “The Toastmasters International Convention is the most anticipated event in the Toastmaster calendar and Malaysia is honoured to be chosen as the preferred destination for this prestigious event, which adds another feather in the cap for Kuala Lumpur as a host venue. We are confident that Kuala Lumpur will meet up to expectations and that this gathering of participants and speakers from around the world will indeed benefit from this.”

Key attendees include Toastmasters International President (2012-2013), Malaysia’s Datuk John Lau, owner and CEO of Acme Group of Companies in Sarawak, who will deliver an introductory speech at the event, while popular Scottish author and speaker, Robin Sieger will deliver the keynote address during the opening ceremony on 20 August 2014.

“We have an impressive and diverse group of speakers who represent the excellence that Toastmasters speakers are known for. In addition to an exceptional schedule of events, convention attendees will hear presentations that reinforce Toastmasters’ commitment to communication and leadership skills development,” said George Yen, Toastmasters 2013-2014 International President.

Golden Gavel Awards

The 2014 installation of this annual gathering honours Astro Malaysia Holdings Bhd CEO, **Rohana Rozhan** as the recipient of the Toastmasters International’s 2014 Golden Gavel award. The prestigious award is presented annually to an individual distinguished in the fields of communication and leadership.

The lineup of presenters will be highlighted by former Head of Development at BBC Television, Robin Sieger and Malaysian media CEO, Rohana Rozhan.

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To learn more about the Toastmasters International Convention 2014 and obtain a complete schedule of events, visit <http://www.toastmasters.org/Convention>.

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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 Toastmasters International

Toastmasters International is a nonprofit educational organization that teaches public speaking and leadership skills through a worldwide network of meeting locations. Headquartered in Rancho Santa Margarita, California, the organization's membership exceeds 292,000 in more than 14,350 clubs in 122 countries. Since 1924, Toastmasters International has helped people of all backgrounds become more confident in front of an audience. For information about local Toastmasters clubs, visit www.toastmasters.org. Follow [@Toastmasters](https://twitter.com/Toastmasters) on Twitter.

Other expert presenters include:

- **Jana Barnhill**, Accredited Speaker and Toastmasters 2008-2009 International President from Lubbock, Texas. She is a five-time winner of the District 44 International Speech Contest, and has placed second and third in the [Toastmasters World Championship of Public Speaking](#).
- **Mark Brown**, 1995 Toastmasters World Champion of Public Speaking. Originally from Kingston, Jamaica, Mark now lives in the U.S., in Lizelle, Georgia. He is a member of the National Speakers Association and delivers more than 200 presentations per year.
- **Douglas Kruger**, Author, motivational speaker and presentation skills coach based in Johannesburg, South Africa. He delivers motivational presentations and training seminars for large organizations, including Old Mutual, Caltex and Vodacom.
- **Lance Miller**, 2005 World Champion of Public Speaking. A resident of Glendale, California, he is a former executive for Nestle and Anheuser-Busch. Miller engages his audience with a unique mix of talent and life experience that bring his messages to life.
- **Florian Mueck**, A speaker, coach and author based in Barcelona, Spain, who speaks three languages (English, German and Spanish). In 2010, he gave a talk for TEDxBarcelona titled "Europe: How to Unleash a Common Spirit."

- **Rory Vaden**, Entrepreneur, consultant and author from Nashville, Tennessee who speaks to audiences about how to say no to things that don't matter, and yes to things that do. At age 23, he placed second in the 2007 World Championship of Public Speaking.

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