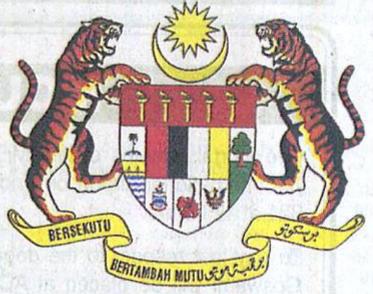


50th National Day of MALAYSIA



Tourism in Malaysia



Dato' Seri Abdullah Bin Ahmad Badawi
Prime Minister of Malaysia

THE early 70s spelt the beginning of a 'new era'. The old Tourism Department of 1959 was then upgraded into the Tourism Development Corporation.

The formation of the Tourism Development Corporation (TDC) in 1972 and placing it under the purview of the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MITI) for strategic planning and focus charted a new era in the history of the tourism industry. That was the same year Malaysia Airlines was formed (1972). It was the dawn of a new beginning and both TDC and MAS were tasked to put Malaysia on the world tourist map. Since then, the Malaysian economy remains relatively robust with manufacturing and tourism taking the lead.

Today, the tourism industry has experienced a rapid growth and gained an importance in the Malaysian economy. It is the second largest foreign exchange earner, after manufacturing. This is in line with the government's objective to accelerate the domestic private sector and stimulate the services sector to spearhead economic growth.

Tourism's Contribution
Receipts: In the context of tourism receipts, the contribution from this

sector has been very encouraging. For instance, the Malaysian economy registered RM17.40 billion in receipts from 10.22 million visitors in 2000 (just a year after implementing the three-pronged action). This constituted a 28.9 per cent increase between 1999 and 2000. With the exception of 2003 (SARS & Gulf War), this upward trend continued until today.

From the tourism receipts (tourism revenue) contribution, there exists a steady growth. For example, tourism receipts increased from RM17.40 billion in 2000 to RM24.20 billion a year later and then increased further to RM25.80 billion (2002), RM29.7 billion (2004) and RM32.00 billion in 2005. Last year Malaysia received RM36.3 billion (USD10.4 billion) in tourism receipts.

The top 10 markets in 2006 were Singapore (9,656,251 arrivals), Thailand (1,891,921 arrivals), Indonesia (1,217,024 arrivals), Brunei (784,446 arrivals), China (439,294 arrivals), Japan (354,213 arrivals), India (279,046 arrivals), Australia (277,125 arrivals), United Kingdom (252,035 arrivals) and the Philippines (211,123 arrivals).

Gross Domestic Product (GDP):

Malaysia's services sector is the largest sector in the economy, contributing 52.4% to GDP and 48.6% to total employment in 2000. The government views the services sector as a catalyst for growth. Last year, the national GDP was at RM1,098.3 billion or USD 313.8 billion (constant 1987 prices) with a growth of 5.9% of which RM36.3 billion or USD 10.3 billion came from the tourism sector thus making it as the second economic contributor for 2006. The Services Sector accounts about 54% of the national GDP.

Jobs / Employment: Out of the total national workforce, 51% (2005) were in the services sector. This translates into almost 5.4 million out of the 10.73 million of the national workforce being employed either directly or indirectly in the tourism sector, be it in hotels, restaurants, travel agencies, airlines, transportation etc... By providing job opportunities, the tourism sector has played a role in keeping unemployment down to a low at 3.5% (2005/2006).

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MESSAGE

TODAY, Malaysia celebrates its Golden Jubilee National Day. On this auspicious occasion, I on behalf of the Government and people of Malaysia would like to extend my greetings and best wishes to the Government and the people of Bangladesh. I would also like to convey my greetings and sincere best wishes to my fellow Malaysians residing in Bangladesh.

The bilateral relations between Malaysia and Bangladesh in all areas of cooperation have always been warm and close. The regular contacts that have been established between the leaders, officials and the people of our two countries have significantly contributed to the strong bond of friendship that we enjoy today, which have also afforded excellent opportunity for further cooperation.

Malaysia follows with great interest the developments in Bangladesh towards bringing about political stability, better socio-economic conditions for the people, as well as the various measures towards enhancing economic growth. In this regard, Malaysia deeply appreciates the opportunity to participate in and contribute to the country's development through the ventures of Malaysian companies in Bangladesh.

The close cooperation between our two governments is also demonstrated in the international and regional arena, where Malaysia and Bangladesh share similar views and perceptions on matters of mutual interest. As Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Organisation of Islamic Conference, Malaysia deeply values Bangladesh's support for Malaysia in leading these bodies. Malaysia also welcomes Bangladesh's participation in ARF that would certainly bring another height in relations between ASEAN and South Asia region.

The two-way trade has been expanding. Thanks to the notable economic growth in Bangladesh. In the investment sector, Malaysia remains one of the main foreign investors in Bangladesh today, chiefly in the fields of telecommunications, power generation and education. The Year 2007 is also known as Visit Malaysia Year 2007.

This year, Malaysia welcomes tourists from all

corners of the world to celebrate with us our 50 years of Nationhood. In this regard, Malaysia is also proud that it has also become a popular tourist destination for the people of Bangladesh. This I believe, was in part brought about by the close affinity of the peoples, where we have a lot of common in terms of our religious, historical and cultural heritage. Additionally, Malaysia is also happy that a substantial number of students from Bangladesh have chosen to further their studies in private educational institutions in Malaysia.

I am confident that with the full support of Bangladesh, our two countries will be able to achieve considerable achievement in all areas of cooperation which will serve the interests of both countries.

I pray to Allah Almighty for the continued peace, progress and prosperity of Bangladesh and its people. May the bond of friendship that our two countries enjoy and close brotherly relations between the people of our two countries continue to grow from strength to strength.

Thank you.



Dato' Abdul Malek Bin Abdul Aziz
High Commissioner of Malaysia to Bangladesh

Agriculture as the nation's engine of growth

AGRICULTURE has been accorded a new stature in Malaysia with the government's announcement in the later part of 2003, that the sector would be revitalized and to be developed as the nation's engine of growth after manufacturing and the services sector. To

realize this vision, the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry has set new aims and objectives for the agro-food sector. It has been restructured while existing economic foundations have been strengthened and new ones established. It has also expanded its range of investment

incentives, financing packages and support services. The significant role of agriculture in economic development was further given a timely boost when the government in March, 2004 included agrobased industry under the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture

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Our heartiest felicitations & warm wishes on the

50th

National Day of Malaysia