

M'sia one of the world's best for business tourism

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia has been recognised as one of the top 10 best international destinations for business tourism.

The award was bestowed at the Ninth China MICE Industry Golden Chair Awards ceremony in Beijing. (MICE is the acronym for meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions.)

Malaysia Convention & Exhibition Bureau (MyCEB) chief executive officer Datuk Zulkefli Shariff said the award was testament to the nation's capabilities and expertise in hosting business events on a global scale.

"It is an achievement to be proud of," he said in a statement.

Throughout last year, MyCEB hosted many large international conferences, exhibitions, meetings and incentives groups.

"China is one of the top markets for corporate meetings and incentives, contributing 25% of this sector's arrivals.

"Last year, Malaysia welcomed the Perfect China Incentive & Travel Seminar group that

brought in 6,000 participants and the Infinitus Iiyang Overseas Training trip that saw some 4,800 participants," said Zulkefli.

He added that getting the award in China was particularly meaningful, given the close bilateral ties between the countries.

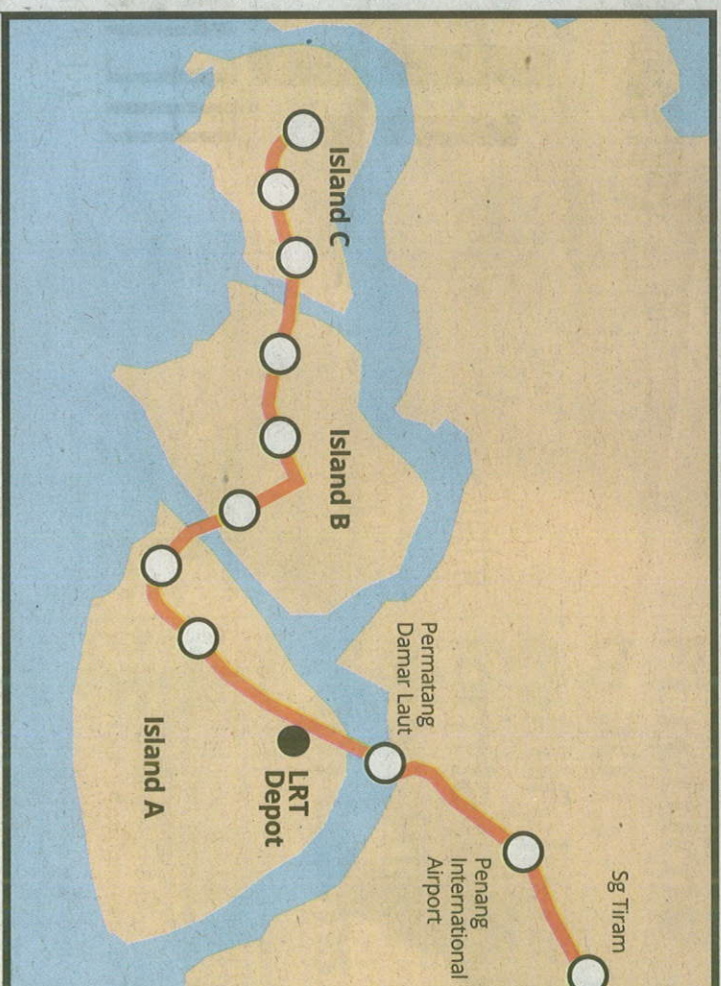
Last year, MyCEB supported 214 business events – 78 conventions, 112 corporate meetings/incentives and 24 trade exhibitions – in Malaysia.

These events accounted for 108,105 international delegates and raked in RM625mil in visitor expenditure.

They also created an economic impact of RM1.3bil.

The China MICE Industry Golden Chair Awards is an authoritative award granted by *MICE Magazine* to commend hotels, destinations, airline companies and travel agencies.

Winners of the award are selected by trade reputation and reader feedback, and evaluated by a panel of experts from November 2015 until January 2016.



On the drawing board: A map showing the proposed man-made isles on the south of Penang island and the proposed rail network linking Komtar with Bayan Lepas and the three isles.

Structure plan to be revised

Three proposed man-made isles to be included, says Chow

By DAVID TAN
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GEORGE TOWN: The Penang Structure Plan, which is outdated, needs to be revised to incorporate the three proposed man-made islands off the south coast near Permatang Damar Laut meant to fund the Penang Transport Master Plan (PTMP).

State Local Government, Traffic Management and Flood Mitigation Committee chairman Chow Kon Yeow said a special task force would adopt a master plan to guide the development of the new islands set to have a population of 300,000. The task force includes the Town Planning and Development Department.

"The master plan will guide the development of the three islands measuring 1,821ha for commercial, residential, industrial, institutional and open space usage.

"In May, this plan will then be submitted to the state planning committee for it to be adopted into the Penang Structure Plan.

"In June or July, the proposal for the three islands will be submitted to the National Physical Planning Council for consideration.

"Following the changes, the Penang Structure Plan will need to be revised.

"The local plan will also need

to be based on the revised plan," he said.

Chow told reporters after a dialogue session with the Malaysian Dutch Business Council attended by Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng.

On the Bayan Lepas Light Rail Transit (LRT), Chow said the conditional approval for the project was expected to be given in June.

"The final approval should be given early next year.

"More than RM20bil worth of jobs can be expected to be tendered out to contractors following the implementation of PTMP," he said.

To a question on waste management for the islands, Chow said the issue would be tackled. "The islands will be designed with new technologies to handle the problem," he said.

Earlier in his speech, Lim said a global property consultant had recently voted Penang as the preferred destination for investment in the country.

"Even without a proper transportation system, Penang can still be the choice location of investment.

"Imagine what Penang can do with an integrated transportation system," he said.

The RM27bil PTMP is aimed at building a public transport system based on a five-in-one mode — taxi, bus, water taxi/ferry, cable car and LRT/monorail.

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