

For immediate release: 2 April 2019

MDBC ACCREDITATION CEREMONY

Kuala Lumpur, 2 April 2019 – The Malaysian Dutch Business Council (MDBC) has been accredited by NLinBusiness and recognized as one of the best Dutch Chambers in the world.

On Thursday, 28 March 2019, the Malaysian Dutch Business Council (MDBC) became the second Dutch Chamber in the world to receive the NLinBusiness quality mark in an accreditation ceremony held in the presence of the Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Stef Blok, who was on a special one day visit to Malaysia.

With this accreditation, MDBC is now officially a member of the new NLinBusiness network of business hubs. MDBC is an important stepping stone for Dutch entrepreneurs who are looking for a good network to get off to a flying start on the Malaysian or ASEAN market.

According to Marco Winter (Executive Director, MDBC), "The Netherlands is quite an important economic partner for Malaysia, both in investments and trade. However, not all Dutch businesses seem to be fully aware of this. With the growing importance of the ASEAN region for Dutch businesses and policymakers, this accreditation truly serves as a fantastic stamp of approval for our organisation, our network, and the services we provide. Moreover, it really helps us promote Malaysia in The Netherlands."

NLinBusiness is an initiative of the main Dutch employers' organizations. It is formed in cooperation with the Dutch Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Economic Affairs and Climate, along with trade associations. NLinBusiness supports Dutch SMEs in identifying the right international markets and building the required capabilities to be successful in those markets. They also facilitate market visits and secure a soft landing in selected Cities of Opportunity.

Edo Offerhaus (General Manager, NLinBusiness), who performed the MDBC – NLinBusiness accreditation logo ceremony with MDBC Chairman Zainul Rahim and Marco Winter, acknowledged the achievements that helped MDBC stand out as a 'best in - class' leader among Dutch Chambers worldwide. He also shared, "NLinBusiness has identified Kuala Lumpur as a City of Opportunity for Dutch entrepreneurs. We are glad that MDBC has become a member of our growing network. With their knowledge, services, and network, they provide excellent opportunities for Dutch entrepreneurs in Malaysia. With the long standing experience of MDBC and the know - how of

NLinBusiness, we will be even better at supporting Dutch entrepreneurs in establishing themselves in this important growth market”

H.E. Karin Mössenlechner (Ambassador, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands), who was also in attendance, added that The Netherlands and Malaysia have much in common, “Both countries have an open economy and depend on international trade. Much like how The Netherlands serves as a hub to Europe, Malaysia can be considered the hub to the ASEAN market. Over 200 Dutch businesses are active in Malaysia and enjoy the favourable business climate. The Embassy and MDBC cooperate intensively to further strengthen the ecosystem for Dutch businesses in Malaysia, and are always ready to advise entrepreneurs in this dynamic market.”

With over 280 members and chapters in Penang and Johor, MDBC is one of the most active business councils in Malaysia. Entrepreneurs are keen on working with MDBC. According to Tim Klappe (Managing Director Asia Pacific, MTS Systems), who recently set up an office in Malaysia, “MDBC is a great source of expertise and immediately offered to share its network with us so that we were off to a flying start in setting up our operations in Malaysia. By sharing its Malaysian contacts and by linking us to professional HR service providers, MDBC helped us a great deal.”

Before the accreditation ceremony, the MDBC organised its annual Connects Fair, with more than 40 of its member – companies showcasing their products, services and business solutions, which attracted 300 participants and guests.



L to R: Zainul Rahim, H.E. Karin Mössenlechner, Marco Winter, Edo Offerhaus, and H.E. Stef Blok at the unveiling of the accreditation logo.

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About MDBC

The Malaysian Dutch Business Council (MDBC) is all about providing business services, representation, and networking. We forge business ties between Malaysia and The Netherlands. Established in 1996 by Malaysian and Dutch companies, MDBC is a private, well established, trade support organisation with over 280 member companies. It is considered one of the most active councils in Kuala Lumpur and in Malaysia as a whole.

With the audacious goal of becoming the full - fledged service provider for all members and businesses with Malaysian – Dutch links, the MDBC achieves its high standards through the successful execution of its three objectives (Business Services, Representation, and Networking). Our core values are to be Entrepreneurial, Independent, Accessible, Responsible, and Service Oriented.

BUSINESS SERVICES:

MDBC provides business services and information to our members. MDBC assists members and newcomers to the Malaysian market on issues related to setting up a company or a representative office here. MDBC keeps members updated on the latest developments in the business world and members' news through our quarterly magazine (the MDBCCONNECTS), the organisation of informative & educational events and through this website, electronic newsletters (the e – Update), and e mails. MDBC also publishes a Business Directory every 18 months.

REPRESENTATION:

MDBC serves as a link to other bilateral Business Associations and Chambers of Commerce. We participate in a dialogue amongst European Union member states in Malaysia and in EU – related programs. We also have established relations with various government institutions. The common business interests of our members, as well as individual needs of companies, are voiced through MDBC to the appropriate authorities in Malaysia. The Council also looks into combined efforts for representation at exhibitions and into commercial partnerships with Malaysian and Dutch government authorities on behalf of our members.

NETWORKING:

Through our regular (monthly) events, members are able to develop good business contacts with the Dutch – Malaysian business community in Malaysia, as well as with other foreign companies, Malaysian counterparts and government bodies. On an annual basis, MDBC

members receive several dozen event – invitations, including signature events such as the MDBC Sustainability Awards and the Human Resources Forum. Numerous social networking events are organised together with other Business Associations and Chambers of Commerce to further extend networking opportunities.

Together with the Economic Department of the Netherlands Embassy and industry associations, the MDBC will, whenever possible, participate in Trade Exhibitions, Dutch missions to Malaysia, and matchmaking sessions. At exhibitions, MDBC members are invited to present their products and services within a larger “Holland Pavilion”. We also support Malaysian missions to The Netherlands.

More information about the Council is available at:

www.mdbc.com.my

www.facebook.com/mdbc.com.my

www.linkedin.com/company/malaysian-dutch-business-council-mdbc-

www.twitter.com/MYMDBC

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