

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MDBC INNOVATION & SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS 2023 SPECIAL EDITION  
SHORTLISTED FINALISTS AND JUDGES PANEL**

**KUALA LUMPUR, -- FEBRUARY 2023** – Returning for the ninth edition, the Malaysian Dutch Business Council (MDBC) announced shortlisted finalists for the MDBC Innovation & Sustainability Awards (MISA) 2023 Special Edition. These competitors will be judged by a panel of expert, independent judges led by the MISA Chief Judge – H.E. Jacques (Jaap) Werner (Ambassador, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands).

Competitors will now advance to the final round of competition which takes place during the MISA Day Program on Monday, 27 February at Sunway University from 13:00 – 18:00 hrs. Open to all, guests are welcomed to join the event, learn from the leaders in these fields, network with peers, and develop potential joint ventures or business partnerships. Winners will be announced at the MDBC 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration & MISA '23 Awards Ceremony & Dinner taking place immediately the day after, on Tuesday, 28 February at Sunway Resort Hotel from 18:00 – 23:00 hrs and will be accompanied by a judges' report.

MISA '23 Special Edition is organized in partnership with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands with venue partners, Sunway University and Sunway Resort Hotel. Award Category Partners – NLinBusiness and TalentCorp. Event Sponsors – Quill Automobiles (an authorised BMW dealer), Control Union, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, TMF Group, MIDA, InvestKL, and nexperia. Also supported by 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary sponsors – Besi APAC, HQ Pack, Shell Malaysia, and Signify.

Open to all companies (MDBC members and non – members alike, except where indicated), finalists in each category are:

*Please note: Shortlisted companies are listed in alphabetical order; the order is NOT indicative of any ranking*

- **Outstanding Dutch Investor in Malaysia (MNC)** [For MDBC members only]
  - ATT Tanjung Bin
  - Control Union (Malaysia)
  - Dutch Lady Milk Industries (DLM)
  - HEINEKEN Malaysia
- **Outstanding Dutch Investor in Malaysia (SME)** [For MDBC members only]
  - Actiforce Mechatronics Technology
  - Brunel – Energy (Malaysia)
  - Enza Zaden Asia
  - HITTECH Wemac
- **Outstanding Malaysian Investor in the Netherlands**
  - Basis Bay
  - Cornerstone Group

- Kuala Lumpur Kepong
- Sime Darby Plantation
- **Promising (new) Dutch SME to Malaysia** [For MDBC members only]
  - Creating Winners
  - Hoogendoorn Growth Management
  - Incitement
  - Orbis Business School
- **Outstanding Dutch – Malaysian Partnership**
  - Centre of Water Engineering Technology
  - Dutch Lady Milk Industries (DLMI)
  - Kloth Malaysia
  - Pengerang Independent Terminals
  - Sime Darby Plantation
  - Terberg Tractors Malaysia
- **Best Flexible Work Arrangements Program**
  - Agensi Pekerjaan Randstad
  - Dutch Lady Milk Industries (DLMI)
  - Standard Chartered Bank Malaysia
  - Tenaga Nasional
  - Unilever Malaysia

Judges for the MISA '23 Special Edition are:

**Chief Judge:** H.E. Jacques Werner (Ambassador, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands)

**Outstanding Dutch Investor in Malaysia (MNC)**

**Judge A:** Aidil Azman (Senior Manager of Investor Relations – EMEA, InvestKL)

**Judge B:** Datin Dr Vijayalakshmi Samuel (Director, AGV Environment)

**Outstanding Dutch Investor in Malaysia (SME)**

**Judge A:** (MIDA)

**Judge B:** Lim Lee Kuan (Managing Director, TMF Group)

**Judge C:** Sashi Ambhaipahan (Head of Corporate Communications & Sustainability, BMW Group Malaysia)

**Outstanding Malaysian Investor in the Netherlands**

**Judge A:** Supun Nigamuni (Managing Director, Control Union (Malaysia))

**Judge B:** Dr. Yazid Manap (Embassy of Malaysia to the Netherlands)

**Promising (new) Dutch SME to Malaysia**

**Judge A:** Lise Hordijk (International Business Manager, NLinBusiness)

**Judge B:** Matthijs van Leeuwen (Chief Innovation Officer, Sunway Group)

**Outstanding Dutch – Malaysian Partnership**

**Judge A:** Prof. Dr. Rob van Tulder (Professor of International Business, RSM Erasmus University)

**Judge B:** Prof. Sibrand Poppema (President, Sunway University)

**Best Flexible Work Arrangements Program**

**Judge A:** Puan Mahuran (Vice President Group Research, Development & Policy,  
and Malaysian Professional Talent, TalentCorp)

**Judge B:** Dato' Nathan K. Suppiah (Vice President, Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM))

For full bios on the panel of judges, please visit [www.mdbc.com.my/mdbc-awards-program/misa-judges](http://www.mdbc.com.my/mdbc-awards-program/misa-judges).

All are welcome to attend; additional information on the Awards Program is available at  
[www.mdbc.com.my/mdbc-awards-program](http://www.mdbc.com.my/mdbc-awards-program).

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## **ABOUT THE MDBC INNOVATION & SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS**

MDBC's unique and innovative awards program is a platform to showcase the best practices of companies in the areas of Innovation and Sustainability, recognizing them for their excellence and trailblazing spirit in these fields. The Netherlands prides itself on green initiatives and it has a long and successful history of innovation. For many years, it has led the world in new innovations and policies that strive to increase sustainability. Combined with Malaysia's focus and efforts to nurture innovation and sustainability, it was a logical step for MDBC to create an awards program highlighting these focus areas.

Initiated in 2011 together with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the awards program started out as the MDBC Sustainability Awards (MSA), and was then expanded to the MDBC Innovation & Sustainability Awards (MISA). It has grown steadily and provides a way for companies to benchmark their efforts against leaders in these fields.

Now in its ninth edition, MISA continues to grow and evolve, proving itself to be both innovative and sustainable. A special edition, MISA '23 features an event partner – The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Venue Partners – Sunway University and Sunway Resort Hotel, Award Category Partners – NLinBusiness and TalentCorp, as well as event sponsors – Control Union, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, TMF Group, MIDA, InvestKL, and Nexperia. It is also supported by our 25th Anniversary Sponsors – Besi APAC, HQ Pack, Shell Malaysia, and Signify. As always, MISA is open to all, giving an ever growing range of companies the opportunity to participate and develop their own understanding of the topics.

This year, MISA is a special edition which also marks MDBC's 25th Anniversary Celebration (marked on 2021 but celebrated now due to unavoidable delays arising from the COVID – 19 pandemic). With expanded categories and a tie in to the anniversary, this edition is bigger, better, and more exciting than ever before.

All MISA shortlisted finalists will participate in the MISA Day Program (taking place on Monday, 27 February), which serves double duty as both a platform for the sharing of best practices, and the final round of judging for competitors. All are welcome to attend the MISA Day Program, which is an exclusive opportunity to learn from these leaders. It enables guests to keep up to date with the latest innovations and developments as well as be more informed about the topics as it directly influences them. After presentations by the finalists, the independent, expert panel of judges and general audience members are provided the opportunity to ask questions from the finalists. When each category is complete, judges deliberate on the projects and responses before making their decision on the winners for that year. A judge's report is also prepared regarding the decision.

### **General Assessment Criteria:**

- Are all three sustainability pillars incorporated (People, Planet, Profit)?
- Is your organization or project taking into account / showcasing Responsible Business Conduct (RBC)?
- Is your organization or project part of the circular economy?

### **Organizations:**

- How will your organization contribute to the economy / community / technology / knowledge of Malaysia?  
What kind of knowledge or skill transfer occurs?
- What, and how, has your organization contributed to the development of the industry?

- How is your organization's innovation able to outdo your main competitors (in the same industry) and stay prominent?
- How has your organization ensured that it will implement ways to evaluate and make efficient (and long – term) use of your resources?
- How has your organization adopted the sustainable development concept into your organization's business strategies and activities (for example, in your supply chain)?
- What alternative should your organization include in terms of sustainability in work / life balance and benefits to your employee, social, environmental, and economic consequences?
- How are your organization's profits put to use to support your clients and stakeholders?

**Projects:**

- Uniqueness and originality of the project: To what extent does it create new market space, products, services, or process?
- How does the project address current Malaysian (Innovation and Sustainability) issues?
- How will the project contribute to the economy / community / technology / knowledge of Malaysia? What kind of knowledge or skill transfer will occur?
- What is the potential? To what extent is it scalable?
- What stage of development is the project in? Is the project a business idea, thoroughly canvassed and tested, generating a consistent source of income, or is it growing rapidly?
- Does the project also affect the economic performance of the organization?
- What has the project contributed to the development of the industry? How and to what extent is the project shared to encourage discussion and finding new ideas?

**The award categories for the MISA '23 Special Edition are:**

**- Outstanding Dutch Investor in Malaysia (MNC):**

Being an '**Outstanding Dutch Investor in Malaysia (MNC)**' means that you are a multinational company established in Malaysia which invests and owns a large number of physical and financial assets. You have your headquarters in the Netherlands and do business in two or more countries (with Malaysia being one of them) with locals and internationals working together. 25% of your revenue is from foreign operations, you have more than 250 employees and an annual sales turnover of over RM 20 million. Your organisation should be eligible to be registered under SSM. Additionally, you are a member of MDBC and your organisation values positive change and is investing money back into the well – being of the Malaysian public.

**- Outstanding Dutch Investor in Malaysia (SME):**

One of the main goals of MISA this year is to celebrate the contributions of 'new' Dutch small and medium sized enterprises. For the manufacturing sector, the SME should not have more than 200 full – time employees, or an annual sales turnover exceeding RM50 million. For the services sector, there should not be more than 75 full – time employees or an annual sales turnover exceeding RM20 million. For both sectors, the organisation should be eligible to be registered under SSM.

The contributions made should be to the Malaysian economy and society as a whole, as well as to trade relations between the Netherlands and Malaysia. Being an '**Outstanding Dutch Investor in Malaysia (SME)**'

means that you are an SME that has proven to have had a beneficial impact on the Malaysian economy and community. To compete in this category, you must be a member of MDBC.

**- Outstanding Malaysian Investor in the Netherlands:**

Being an '**Outstanding Malaysian Investor in the Netherlands**' means that not only are you a Malaysian company investing responsibly in the Netherlands, you're also establishing yourself in the Dutch business environment and community. For businesses looking to accelerate and expand, the Dutch public – private partnership offers a conducive environment. Are you a unique Malaysian business investing in the Netherlands and looking for further exposure and knowledge?

**- Promising (new) Dutch SME to Malaysia:**

Dutch Entrepreneurs play an essential role in bringing new ideas, knowledge, and practices in terms of innovation, sustainability, and circular economy to the market, which is advantageous for the ASEAN community by encouraging research, technology, and innovation. As a '**Promising (new) Dutch SME to Malaysia**', you are a member of MDBC and have been operational in Malaysia for less than five (5) years, but clearly, have set your focus on long – term sustainability and social value for Malaysia and ASEAN.

**- Outstanding Dutch – Malaysian Partnership:**

The partnership agreement must be between at least one (1) Dutch organisation AND one (1) Malaysian organisation. The partnership must include at least one company and may also include government, knowledge institutions, or civil society organisations. To be recognized as an '**Outstanding Dutch – Malaysian Partnership**', you must, in addition to being in a partnership, showcase differentiation in terms of innovation and sustainability while strengthening the Malaysian – Dutch relationship. Highlight how the partnership solves an issue in Malaysia and / or the Netherlands. This Dutch – Malaysian business partnership can be any kind of cooperation such as a joint venture, agency, distributor, system integrator, consultancy, or project management, knowledge exchange, and more.

**- Best Flexible Work Arrangements Program:**

Flexible Work Arrangements (FWA) Programs are alternate arrangements or schedules from the traditional work day and week. Employees may choose a different schedule to meet personal and / or family needs. Employers have been offering FWA programs as a way to increase their ability to attract and / or retain high performing and experienced employees.

During the pandemic, the well – being of employees increased in importance; In recognition, MDBC is looking for the organisation with the "**Best Flexible Work Arrangements Program**".

These organisations have implemented and encouraged FWA for long term retention, showcasing workplace strategies that demonstrate a strong drive and commitment to achieving diversity and inclusivity, to the benefit of their employees. They will be able to demonstrate business compliance, company policy and procedure, as well as the organisation's culture and permanent arrangements.

For more information on the MDBC Awards Program, please visit:  
[www.mdbc.com.my/mdbc-awards-program](http://www.mdbc.com.my/mdbc-awards-program)

For more information on the MISA Awards Criteria & Assessment, please visit:  
[www.mdbc.com.my/mdbc-awards-program/misa-assessment-criteria](http://www.mdbc.com.my/mdbc-awards-program/misa-assessment-criteria)



## **ABOUT THE MALAYSIAN DUTCH BUSINESS COUNCIL (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, non – profit trade support organisation with more than 250 members. Don't forget to check out our Members Directory to see who's in the community. MDBC is considered one of the most active councils in Kuala Lumpur and in Malaysia as a whole, to see what events are upcoming, please visit our Events Calendar.

In 2021, MDBC won the 'Best Bilateral Business Services Provider – Malaysia' award from APAC Insider. In 2019, MDBC became the second Dutch Chamber in the world to receive the NLinBusiness quality mark in an accreditation ceremony attended by the Netherlands Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Stef Blok. In addition to being acknowledged as a 'best – in – class' leader, MDBC is now officially a member of the new NLinBusiness network of business hubs. This is a sign to Dutch entrepreneurs that they can be guaranteed a 'soft landing' in Malaysia as they seek to enter the Malaysian market and / or wider ASEAN market. In 2018, MDBC won the APAC 2018 International Chambers of Commerce Membership Engagement Program of the Year Award.

MDBC has the audacious goal of becoming the best business chamber in the world, providing lasting value to our members. We achieve our high standards through the successful execution of our 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. We assist members and newcomers to the Malaysian market on issues related to setting up a company or representative office. 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. We also publish 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. MDBC members receive several dozen event – invitations every year. This includes signature events such as the MDBC Sustainability Awards and the Human Resources Forum.

We also extend networking opportunities by organizing social events with other Business Associations and Chambers of Commerce.

When possible, MDBC participates in trade exhibitions, missions, and matchmaking sessions. This is done together with the Economic Department of the Netherlands Embassy and industry associations. At exhibitions, we invite our members to present their products and services within a larger “Holland Pavilion”. We also support Malaysian missions to The Netherlands.

Additional information about the Council is available at:

[www.mdbc.com.my](http://www.mdbc.com.my)

[linktr.ee/mdbcommunications](https://linktr.ee/mdbcommunications)

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