

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MDBC 23-04

MALAYSIAN DUTCH BUSINESS COUNCIL (MDBC) IS RE – ACCREDITED IN AN EXCEPTIONAL “3 – IN – 1” EVENT WHICH ALSO LAUNCHED A SPECIAL WORKING GROUP WITH THE EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS

KUALA LUMPUR, 16 AUGUST 2023 – **The Malaysian Dutch Business Council (MDBC), one of the leading Dutch Chambers of Commerce worldwide, is the second Dutch Business Council in the world to be re – accredited by NLinBusiness, an initiative of the Dutch employers’ organizations VNO – NCW and MKB Nederland.**

At the special “3 – in – 1” event at EQ Kuala Lumpur where this took place, MDBC also launched the “MY Orange RBC Working Group” together with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The MY Orange RBC Working Group provides an open space for knowledge sharing on best responsible practices, potential supply chain risks, and overall experiences with sustainability measures, helping companies meet Responsible Business Conduct regulations expected to be enforced in the near future.

Subjected to a rigorous peer reviewed re – accreditation process, MDBC is the second Dutch Business Council worldwide to be successfully re – accredited by NLinBusiness. MDBC had to showcase that not only do they continue to meet the high standards which were initially required to be accredited, they have since surpassed and improved, introducing new products and services - such as their Rumah Oranje (Orange House) hot desking and virtual office offering, as well as pushing the quality benchmark higher as time moves on.

The ceremony was witnessed by VIP Guests Edo Offerhaus (who was at the time Managing Director, NLinBusiness) who made a special trip to Malaysia for this event, and H.E. Jacques Werner (Ambassador, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands). Offerhaus was in Malaysia previously to witness MDBC’s accreditation back in 2019. At that time, MDBC was the second Business Council in the world to receive the NLinBusiness quality mark in an accreditation ceremony attended by then Netherlands Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Stef Blok, who acknowledged MDBC as a ‘best – in – class’ leader.

“We are honoured with the re – accreditation by NLinBusiness. This is recognition of our successful commitment to serving our members. We also support Dutch companies that want to establish themselves in Malaysia, and Malaysian companies that want to make the move to the Netherlands. The NLinBusiness accreditation gives us the opportunity to

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identify Dutch companies that want to develop activities in Malaysia at an early stage, and to immediately assist and advise with our knowledge of the local market so that they can be operational in Malaysia more quickly and easily,” shared Zainul Rahim (Chairman, MDBC).

The re – accreditation also signals a continuation of MDBC as a member of the NLinBusiness network of business hubs, 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 the wider ASEAN market.

“MDBC is an important NL Business Hub in a growth market with great opportunities for Dutch entrepreneurs with international ambitions. Malaysia plays a prominent role within ASEAN as a regional hub, which offers many opportunities for Dutch entrepreneurs with international ambitions within ASEAN or even the Asia – Pacific region. By bringing entrepreneurs into contact with Dutch entrepreneurs who have preceded them, and reliable local service providers via the NL Business Hub, doing business in Malaysia becomes a lot more accessible. With this re – accreditation we recognize the important role that MDBC plays in the promotion of Dutch – Malaysian trade relations. I would like to congratulate the entire MDBC team on reaching this important milestone,” said Lise Hordijk (International Business Team Lead, NLinBusiness).

It is only fitting then that at the same event, MDBC together with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands also launched the MY Orange RBC Working Group.

The Dutch Government expects companies to ensure that the production of goods and the provision of services and other business activities are carried out sustainably and with respect for human rights, labour rights, and the environment. This is called Responsible Business Conduct (RBC) and is expected not only within the Netherlands but also when doing business abroad. The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and MDBC promote and support this among the Dutch – Malaysian business community. Recently, questions have been rising within the community on what this means for them and how to put this into practice. With potential Dutch and EU due diligence legislations upcoming, this inaugural edition in a series of events will dive deeper into the best actions to undertake when preparing for these requirements, what challenges can arise when doing so, and what risks this may entail.

According to Eva Oskam (Deputy Ambassador and Head of the Economic Department, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands), “Assessing & addressing risks throughout your supply chain can be a daunting task. Together with MDBC, we are ready to work with you and facilitate the sharing of challenges and lessons learned in this exciting new working group.”

“We encourage all our member – companies to keep informed on RBC developments, attend the informative activities and, where appropriate, join the Working Group” added Marco Winter (Executive Director, MDBC).

Through interactive meetings, the working group will offer a platform for joint – learning through B2B knowledge exchange and informative sessions on the expectations set by the Dutch government on responsible business practices. The aim is to provide information on potential Dutch and EU due diligence legislations and initiatives, as well as on possible support by Malaysian authorities, to facilitate Dutch – Malaysian sustainable collaboration.

The working group is open for Dutch companies active in Malaysia, or Malaysian companies linked through trade, investment, and / or supply chain with the Netherlands. Companies taking part should be willing to actively participate by sharing experiences with sustainability and due diligence measures as well as knowledge on responsible business practices.

“The Netherlands is always among the top contributors of FDI to Malaysia. As shared by MIDA, in 2022, we were the third largest source of FDI to Malaysia (RM 20.4 billion). We know that the strong, long standing bilateral relationship between our countries will continue to flourish. MDBC will continue to facilitate this partnership. We are confident that the variety and quality of our products and services will help us provide a soft landing for Dutch entrepreneurs entering the local market. With MY Orange RBC Working Group, our members can see that our support doesn’t stop after the initial entry to market, but continues throughout their business journey here in Malaysia (and in ASEAN through our involvement in the ASEAN Dutch Chamber Network (ADCN)),” said Marco Winter.

For more information or to get in contact with an MDBC representative, visit www.mdbc.com.my or call +603 – 2387 0043.

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ABOUT NLINBUSINESS

NLinBusiness is an initiative of the Dutch employers' organizations VNO - NCW and MKB Nederland. We work closely together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate, the sector associations FME, evofenedex, and Koninklijke Metaalunie, as well as with other interest groups, top sectors, knowledge institutes, and the Dutch business community.

NL BUSINESS HUBS

NL Business Hubs support Dutch companies as they enter new foreign markets by providing a strong local business and community network. They know the market and know where opportunities lie. NL Business Hubs work closely with Dutch Embassies, Consulate Generals and local governments, which allows them to help Dutch entrepreneurs, even in difficult times. NL Business Hubs in collaboration with (local) partners offer services including market exploration, networking events, (online) workshops, legal services, and matchmaking services.

NL Business Hubs in Asia include:

- Bangkok, Thailand: Netherlands - Thai Chamber of Commerce
- Dubai, United Arab Emirates: The Netherlands Business Council UAE
- Shanghai, China: Belenux Chamber of Commerce in China – Shanghai
- Guangzhou, China: Benelux Chamber of Commerce – Pearl River Delta
- Ho Chi Minh - City, Vietnam: Dutch Business Association Vietnam
- Hong Kong, Hong Kong: Dutch Chamber of Commerce Hong Kong
- Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: Malaysian Dutch Business Association
- Jakarta, Indonesia: Dutch Business Network Indonesia

ABOUT MDBC

The Malaysian Dutch Business Council (MDBC) is an award winning Dutch bilateral Chamber of Commerce located in Malaysia. Well established, we have been providing business services, representation, and networking for close to three decades. MDBC has nearly 300 members and works closely with the Netherlands Embassy, key Malaysian Ministries, and relevant Government Agencies to provide the best support for Dutch companies looking to establish and / or expand their business presence in Malaysia and the wider ASEAN / Asian region. MDBC was one of the first NL Business Hubs in the world to be accredited by NLinBusiness in 2019, as well as re – accredited in 2023, receiving wide recognition for the soft landing support for Dutch entrepreneurs in Malaysia, including our Rumah Oranje (hot desks and virtual office address) offering.

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.

NL BUSINESS HUB NETWORK:

MDBC is a proud member of the NLinBusiness NL Business Hub network. NLinBusiness supports Dutch entrepreneurs in their ambition to expand internationally. They are actively building a network of NL Business Hubs in 40 identified high growth regions, or “Cities of Opportunity”.

These hubs have strong networks of already well – established Dutch entrepreneurs and local service providers, offering local support to Dutch companies entering the market. As an NL Business Hub, MDBC supports Dutch entrepreneurs seeking to enter / entering a new market with our local knowledge of both Malaysia and the wider ASEAN region. MDBC provides you with access to Malaysian and Dutch Government agencies, Netherlands Embassies, Consulate Generals, and local and other Dutch service providers – our member companies, both directly and via our partnership with NLinBusiness. With access to the largest Dutch – Malaysian business community, you will be in the best and strongest position to kick off your entry into the Malaysian and wider ASEAN / Asian markets.

ASEAN DUTCH CHAMBER NETWORK (ADCN):

MDBC is also one of the founding members of the ASEAN Dutch Chamber Network (ADCN). It consists of six Dutch Chambers of Commerce (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam) and represents a diverse range of Dutch Business, cutting across almost every commercial sphere from manufacturing and financial services, to Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG), and high end electronics and communications. The network is developing common exposure, better streamlining of membership, and providing increased opportunities for respective members to attend events from Dutch Chamber colleagues that could especially be of interest for many regional representatives here in ASEAN.



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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