



Australian High Commission, Kuala Lumpur

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(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

Australia Day 2017

The Australian High Commission in Kuala Lumpur commemorated Australia Day on 24 January with a stylish reception celebrating Australia's renowned active lifestyle and the strength and depth of the Australia-Malaysia bilateral relationship, which will enter its 62nd year in 2017.

The event, which was held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, was attended by over 1,000 distinguished guests. The Honourable Datuk Seri Mah Siew Keong, Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, represented the Malaysian Government, as the guest of honour.

In his welcoming remarks, the Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia, H.E. Rod Smith reflected on enduring partnership between Australia and Malaysia, each nation's shared commitment to working together for the security and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region and above all, the enduring bond between the Australian and Malaysian people.

"Australia Day is an opportunity to reflect on the personal friendships and connections that are at the heart of our relations. Friendships forged through education, through business, tourism, migration, the arts, political and youth exchanges, as well as through decades of defence and security cooperation," the High Commissioner said.

The High Commissioner also reflected on the evening's theme and the ability of sport to break down barriers and bring people together, citing the many examples of sporting collaboration between Australia and Malaysia, across sports including football, netball, hockey and cycling.

Guests at the reception then had the opportunity to sample some of the outstanding Australian produce available in Malaysia, including succulent seafood, high-grade meats, organic nuts and quality wines, provided by our Australia Day partners Southern Rock Seafood, Meat & Livestock Australia and Nature's Farms.

The Australian High Commission wishes to thank its Australia Day Partners for their generous support. In particular, the lead partner for the event, the Queensland Government and City of Gold Coast, who are proud to be hosting the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games and the upcoming Sudirman Cup badminton tournament in May 2017.

Other generous sponsors included Blackmores Malaysia, Gribbles Pathology, NS BlueScope Malaysia, Lendlease, CPA Australia (Malaysia Division), Lynas Malaysia, Monash University Malaysia, the Government of South Australia, UGL, the Victorian State Government, Spotlight Stores, QBE Malaysia and AirAsia.

As part of its Australia Day celebrations, the Australian High Commission is also holding a quiz on Facebook. The quiz challenges Malaysians to test their Australian sports and general knowledge for the chance to win two return flights to Australia courtesy of AirAsia and health screening vouchers courtesy of Gribbles. The quiz is open until 31 January. More information can be obtained at the Australian High Commission's Facebook page www.facebook.com/ausinmalaysia.

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