

MEDIA RELEASE

AUSTRALIA CELEBRATES 70 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP WITH MALAYSIA



Kuala Lumpur, 23 January 2025 – The Australian High Commission in Malaysia has officially launched the campaign to celebrate **70 years of Australia's diplomatic presence in Malaysia**, kicking off the anniversary with the unveiling of the 70th anniversary logo.

Launched in conjunction with the Australia Day 2025 celebration, the anniversary launch was witnessed by Guest of Honour The Honourable Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution bin Ismail, Minister of Home Affairs of Malaysia and more than 1,500 distinguished guests including ministers, government officials, business leaders, diplomatic representatives and alumni.

Her Excellency Ms Danielle Heinecke, Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia said, "Australia and Malaysia are trusted friends and partners. The 70th anniversary milestone is a celebration of the deep and enduring people links that lie at the heart of the Australia-Malaysia relationship, with decades of connections through culture, education, tourism, defence and security, and business. As our unique bond continues to grow – including through our highly complementary economic and security ties, and deep people to people links – we look forward to further strengthening the Australia-Malaysia partnership, a partnership for the future."

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Australia's relationship with Malaysia is longstanding. Australia established an Australian Commission in Kuala Lumpur in 1955, prior to Malaysia's Independence. Today, Malaysia is one of Australia's closest partners in the region – including as a top ten trading partner – and a growing alumni community of more than 300,000.

The 70th anniversary campaign kicked off with a public logo design competition launched in December 2024, the first in a series of special commemorative activities to be held throughout 2025. The winning logo design was announced during the 70th anniversary launch, with the Malaysian winner, Mr Alvin Lim Ching Wei, creating a unique design featuring national symbols from both countries: Malaysia's hibiscus and Australia's kangaroo. The logo design captures the shared history and longstanding friendship between Australia and Malaysia, as well as the opportunities to work closer to strengthen the ties between the two countries.

2025 will feature a program of anniversary activities in Malaysia including collaborations, workshops, visits, and two-way exchanges across the full spectrum of the Australia-Malaysia relationship – from business, education and the arts, to culture, sport and food. This year will also see several other significant milestones, such as commemorations for the 80th anniversary of World War II events and Australia's support for Malaysia's ASEAN Chair Year.

For updates on 70th anniversary activities, follow the Australian High Commission in Malaysia's social media accounts (X, Facebook, and Instagram).

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Media note: Imagery for the 70^{th} anniversary celebration and Australia Day 2025 reception available via this <u>link</u>.