

MEDIA RELEASE

TOURISM MINISTER CONFERRED HONORARY DOCTORATE BY THE JOSAI INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF JAPAN

KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT 4, 2012: Tourism Minister Dato' Sri Dr. Ng Yen Yen was conferred Honorary Doctorate (*Honoris Causa*) by the Chancellor of the Josai International University (JIU), Noriko Mizuta in Tokyo today.



Dato Sri Dr. Ng Yen Yen (right) receiving her Honorary Doctorate from Noriko Mizuta, the Chancellor, Josai University, Japan.

The conferment of the honorary doctorate was in recognition of Dato' Sri Dr. Ng Yen Yen's significant contributions in the development of the tourism industry, nation building and in the forging of closer relations and cooperation between Josai International University and Malaysia.

“I receive this award not for myself alone, but for my family who have supported my endeavours; and also for the women and men who have worked with me to improve areas relating to women, family and children for a better Malaysia, better tomorrow and for 1Malaysia. I dedicate this award to all the staff at the Ministry of Tourism, Tourism Malaysia and the travel trade fraternity who worked hard with me to ensure Malaysia’s success in the tourism industry” - Dato Sri Dr. Ng Yen Yen, Minister of Tourism, Malaysia.

The tourism industry has undergone rapid progress since Dato’ Sri Dr. Ng Yen Yen was appointed Minister of Tourism in April 2009. In 2011, tourist arrivals increased by 137,128 to 24,714,324 compared to 24,577,196 in 2010 while receipts increased by RM1.8 billion to RM58.3billion compared to RM56.5billion the previous year. It was also during her stewardship at the tourism helm that Malaysia secured the 9th spot as most visited country in the world by UNWTO for three years in a row, from 2009 to 2011

This year, Malaysia welcomed 11, 632, 483 tourist arrivals in the first six months of 2012, registering a growth of 2.4% compared to 11,362, 862 for the same period last year. Tourist receipts from January to June 2012 have also risen by 4.0%, generating RM26.8 billion to the country’s revenue compared to RM25.7 billion in 2011.

Dato’ Sri Dr. Ng is also recognized for fast-tracking implementation of several innovative tourism products such as the 1Malaysia International Shoes Festival, Magic of the Night, 1Malaysia Contemporary Art Tourism, Parks & Gardens Tourism, Rail Tourism and Homestay programs, Helicopter Tourism, Fabulous Food 1Malaysia Festival, Luxury Tourism, Tarian Cuti-Cuti 1Malaysia and 1Malaysia Green 1Malaysia Clean (1MG1MC). She was also instrumental in leveraging Malaysia as a luxury tourism destination with her focus on parks and gardens tourism, an initiative that saw Malaysia win gold awards for its garden concept at the prestigious RHS Chelsea Flower Show in London for two years in a row.

Through the Malaysian Tourism Transformation Plan, she spearheaded grand plans for Malaysia’s tourism industry, that is to achieve 36 million tourists and RM168 billion (USD56 billion) in receipts by 2020.

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