



PRESS RELEASE

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**WORLD AMATEUR INTER-TEAM GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP (WAITGC):
ROUND ONE IN JOHOR**

JOHOR BAHRU, 10 March 2014 – The first round of the annual World Amateur Inter-Team Golf Championship (WAITGC) 2014 tees off today with the first qualifying round at and IOI Palm Villa Golf & Country Club and Horizon Hills Golf & Country Club, two well-known golf venues in Johor.

The 4-day qualifying round of the 21st edition of WAITGC is participated by five teams from Australia, six teams from Brunei, one team from China, five teams from Hong Kong, two teams from Japan and one team from Malaysia.

The participants will first play at the IOI Palm Villa Golf & Country Club which is perfectly crafted for challenge and leisure. The resort offers a variety of golfing challenges at the 27-hole golf course and a comprehensive range of club facilities.

The tournament will then continue at the 6,271 meter par-72 Horizon Hills Golf & Country Club. The club offers an exclusive 18-hole international standard golf course designed by Australian golf architect, Ross Watson who applied the ‘risk reward’ design principle to the course.

WAITGC is Tourism Malaysia’s initiatives to promote the country as a top-of-mind golf destination in the region. It is played in Strokeplay gross for gross category and Stableford for the nett and senior category.

The event has emerged as a well-regarded tournament and one of the highly anticipated golfing events on the golfer’s calendar. Since it made its debut in 1994, WAITGC has attracted more than 500 participants every year.

Besides testing the participants’ skills, this homegrown golf tournament also helps to promote Malaysia’s tourism attractions as it encourages the participants and their families to explore the many interesting sights and sounds in the country.

As WAITGC is also open to members of the media, it consequently boosts the stature of the event and promotes Malaysia internationally as a desirable golf destination.

The World Amateur Inter-Team Golf Championship is managed by the Golf Club Managers Association of Malaysia (GCMAM) and sanctioned by the Malaysian Golf Association.

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MALAYSIA TOURISM PROMOTION BOARD OR TOURISM MALAYSIA is an agency under the Ministry of Tourism & Culture, Malaysia. Tourism Malaysia focuses on the specific task of promoting Malaysia at all levels. Since its inception, Tourism Malaysia has grown by leaps and bounds and it has emerged as a major player in the international tourism scene. In 2012, Malaysia registered 25 million tourist arrivals and RM60.6 billion in tourist receipts, placing the country firmly as the 10th most popular tourism destination in the world.

In 2014, Malaysia will celebrate its fourth **VISIT MALAYSIA YEAR (VMY)** with the theme "Celebrating 1Malaysia Truly Asia". The VMY 2014 promotional campaign has started this year with a series of year-long special events and activities leading to VMY 2014. It will contribute to the Government's target to receive 36 million tourist arrivals and RM168 billion in receipts by 2020, as outlined in the Malaysia Tourism Transformation Plan (MTTP) 2020.

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