

# ISSUE 236

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## WEEKLY INSIGHTS

## HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY NEWSLETTER



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# Hyatt Centric Brand Expands to Southeast Asia With the Opening of Hyatt Centric Kota Kinabalu in Malaysia

Hyatt Hotels Corporation announced the opening of Hyatt Centric Kota Kinabalu, which marks the debut of Hyatt's rapidly growing lifestyle brand in Malaysia and Southeast Asia.

The 222-room hotel is centrally located in the heart of the city's lively dining and entertainment district, providing a convenient homebase for adventurous explorers and local residents to discover authentic experiences and hidden gems in the coastal capital of Malaysia's Sabah state on the island of Borneo.

The 23-story hotel features modern guestrooms with balconies and is crowned with an infinity pool, duplex restaurant and bar on the rooftop, offering sweeping views overlooking Signal Hill, the islands at Tunku Abdul Rahman Marine Park and the South China Sea.

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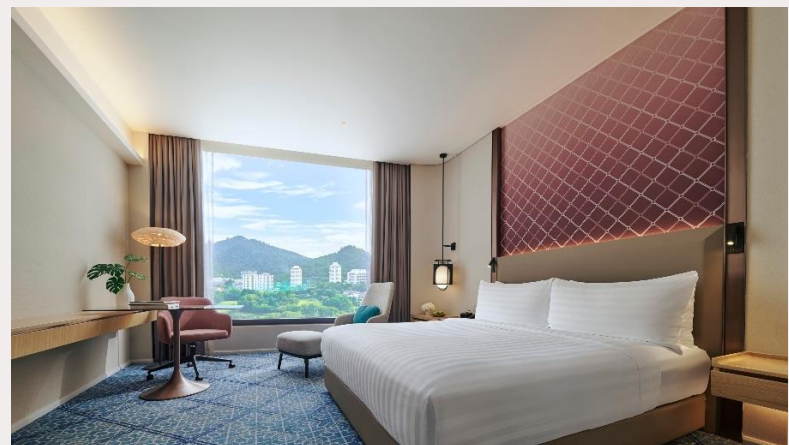


# Amari SPICE Penang opens its doors

Strategically located in Bayan Lepas, Penang's central business district, and just a ten-minute drive from Penang International Airport, the hotel is perfectly situated for business executives. It is also directly connected to the Setia SPICE Convention Centre, the world's first hybrid solar-powered MICE venue, which has helped redefine Penang as a business tourism hotspot.

The 453 contemporary guest rooms and suites have been thoughtfully designed to offer a home-from-home appeal, with warm furnishings and floor-to-ceiling windows. They are also fully equipped with modern facilities such as an ergonomic workspace with international sockets, smart TV and wireless sound bar, and high-speed wifi connectivity.

When it comes to meetings, the Amari SPICE Penang has a full complement of facilities to host a wide range of functions. The 240sqm pillarless ballroom is a stunning space for large conferences, annual dinners and customised events of up to 360 people, complete with a pre-function area and professional event planners. [READ MORE](#)



# Widad kicks off Langkasuka project in Langkawi

Widad Business Group Sdn Bhd (WBG), through wholly-owned Langkasuka Land Sdn Bhd, held a ground-breaking ceremony on Oct 23 to mark the start of works on Langkasuka Village, which is Phase 1 of Widad Langkasuka project.

Langkasuka Village will include Langkasuka Golf and Country Club, a tournament-level golf course with a 400,000-square-foot build-up clubhouse. It will also boast LangVilla luxury villas, a mall for indoor and outdoor retail and entertainment experiences, a rainforest-themed hotel that touches the Andaman Sea, serviced apartments and luxury condominiums.

Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Muhammad Sanusi Md Nor said Langkasuka would be an iconic product and a unique attraction to Langkawi upon its completion. "This project has fulfilled six main cores of the Kedah Development Plan 2035," he said.

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# Butterworth Arena to be fully operational next month

The biggest convention centre and banquet hall in Seberang Perai is expected to be fully operational by Nov 15 this year.

The 17,800sqm Butterworth Arena or officially known as the Penang International Exhibition Convention Cultural & Arts Centre (PIECCA @ Butterworth Arena) is located at Ampang Jajar in Butterworth.

The RM59 million double-storey air-conditioned PIECCA @ Butterworth Arena was announced in 2017 and is fully funded by the Penang government through Penang Development Corporation (PDC).

It is fully equipped with plenty of accommodations and facilities such as three ballrooms which could accommodate a total of 360 tables, a stage and four function rooms, two separate kitchens, 600 parking lots for cars and 400 lots for motorcycles and many more.

The PIECCA @ Butterworth Arena, which is owned by Chief Minister Incorporated (CMI), was handed over to the Island LandCap Hospitality Sdn Bhd as the operator in a simple handover ceremony yesterday.

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# Batik Air to launch KL-Tokyo flights from Dec 15

Batik Air, formerly Malindo Air, will launch daily flights between Kuala Lumpur and Tokyo–Narita International Airport, Japan from Dec 15.

The carrier, in a statement, said it would utilise the brand–new Boeing 737–8 aircraft, which is fitted with 12 business and 150 economy class seats.

Batik Air chief executive officer Captain Mushafiz Mustafa Bakri said the new services to Narita reflect the carrier's commitment to grow the network reach and also expand the operations into the popular North Asian market.

"These new flights will strengthen the position of KLIA as a transit hub, providing convenient and seamless connectivity between key markets such as Australia, South Asia, Asean and Japan," he said.

It said the new direct flights would offer convenient travel between Malaysia and Japan to cater for tourism and business activities.

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# AirAsia links Bali and Penang

AirAsia will boost regional inbound tourism to Penang after establishing a new direct route from Bali last week.

AirAsia now flies between Penang and Bali twice weekly under the flight codes AK1234 and AK1235. The airline currently serves Penang with 156 flights per week, making Penang the airline's second biggest hub in Malaysia after Kuala Lumpur.

Penang State EXCO for Tourism and Creative Economy (PETACE ) YB Yeoh Soon Hin said: “We are thrilled that AirAsia has introduced these new direct Penang – Bali services. This will be the first new direct route connecting the region after the pandemic. We believe this will be another key international route from Penang, and we applaud AirAsia's continued effort to make Penang a destination of choice for many regional travellers.:

AirAsia Malaysia CEO Riad Asmat noted: “These new services mark the first time we have flown this route. As the largest carrier serving Penang with a market share of 50% as a group, (this latest development) bodes well for AirAsia's regional expansion opening up new markets to and from Penang. [READ MORE](#)



# AirAsia Super App partners with 50 key regional hotel groups

The airasia Super App has partnered with over 50 key hotel groups from Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines to help strengthen the application's position as one of the region's fastest-growing online travel and lifestyle platforms.

Capital A Bhd, the holding company of the AirAsia Aviation Group, said the partnerships would allow the app to offer customers an extensive array of hotel options to choose from, according to their budget.

AirAsia Super App chief executive officer Amanda Woo said the direct hotel partners are able to leverage AirAsia's strong brand presence and connectivity network.

“This enables airasia Super App to avail more marketing opportunities and visibility for each hotel partner, while offering them extremely competitive rates,” she said during the mass signing ceremony on Oct 25. [READ MORE](#)



# CapitaLand Ascott Trust launches IFC's first sustainability-linked bond in hospitality sector

CAPITALAND Ascott Trust (Clas) has partnered with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to launch the corporation's first sustainability-linked bond in the hospitality sector globally, its managers said in a bourse filing.

IFC, the World Bank Group's private-sector investment arm, is the sole subscriber for the 16.5 billion yen (\$157.4 million) bond.

The bond is being issued as part of Clas' S\$2 billion multicurrency debt issuance programme with a fixed coupon rate of 1.05 per cent per annum and is paid semi-annually in arrears. The seven-year bond will mature on Nov 7, 2029.

OCBC Bank has been appointed the sole dealer in respect of this issue of notes. Proceeds from the bond will be used to refinance Clas' existing borrowings and to further decarbonise three of its serviced residences in South-east Asia: Ascott Jakarta in Indonesia, as well as Ascott Makati and Somerset Millennium Makati in the Philippines, its managers said. [READ MORE](#)

