

ISSUE 238

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WEEKLY INSIGHTS

HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY NEWSLETTER



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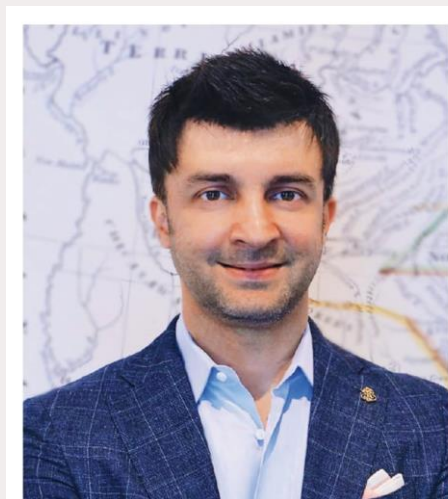
Ri-Yaz buys Desaru Coast land from Khazanah

Homegrown hotel owner/operator Ri-Yaz Assets Sdn Bhd is set to buy a three-acre piece of land in Desaru, Johor, from Themed Attractions Resorts & Hotels Sdn Bhd (TARH), the leisure and tourism arm of Khazanah Nasional Bhd. This purchase will add to the five acres Ri-Yaz had purchased from TARH three months ago.

Ri-Yaz plans to build two five-star hospitality assets on the two sites acquired from TARH, which is the master developer of the 4,000-acre Desaru Coast.

Ri-Yaz founder and group managing director Datuk Seri Mohammed Shaheen Shah Mohd Sidek says a 188-room Dash Resort Desaru is slated to be opened in August 2024 on the five-acre site, while a 70-unit Dash Suites Desaru is scheduled to be opened in December 2024 on the three-acre site. Construction of both hospitality assets is expected to commence in the first quarter of next year.

By 2025, Ri-Yaz is expected to operate nine new hotels and resorts in Malaysia and Vietnam including the two in Desaru with a total room inventory of 1,456. [READ MORE](#)



Island Hospital opens its new Peel Wing

Island Hospital has officially opened its new Peel Wing, adding 14 operating theatres and 300 beds.

Besides making it the state's first 600-bed private hospital, the 12-storey block is also equipped with the latest infrastructure for advanced and comprehensive healthcare services.

CEO Mark Wee said the opening marks the metamorphosis of Island Hospital into Island Medical City, a large public-private partnership between the state government and the hospital to help realise a shared vision of making Penang the 'Medical City of Asia'.

Future phases include a further block dubbed the Peirce Wing that will take overall capacity up to 1,000 beds, as well as a hotel catering to the medical tourism market.

"It is not widely known, but in 2019, one out of every five Indonesian healthcare travellers to Malaysia were treated at Island Hospital.

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Impiana Hotels gets winding up petition over unpaid sum relating to resort redevelopment

Impiana Hotels Bhd's wholly-owned subsidiary Impiana Cherating Sdn Bhd has been served a winding up petition by Axventure Sdn Bhd over an unpaid amount relating to the redevelopment of a resort.

The case management via e-review has been fixed on Dec 13, Impiana said in a stock exchange filing.

“The company has obtained legal advice and intends to contest the winding-up petition vigorously as Impiana Cherating is able to settle the amount claimed and there is no need to liquidate the assets of Impiana Cherating to settle the amount,” the group added.

Impiana noted that Axventure had on Aug 26 served Impiana Cherating a notice of demand over an outstanding sum of RM2.26 million, comprising the adjudication sum of RM2.25 million together with costs awarded by the High Court. [READ MORE](#)



HostAStay launches short stay platform

HostAStay, Malaysia's short stay management platform, has launched The Awakening – Short Stay Summit 2022.

The summit propels Malaysia as a springboard for short-stay businesses to grow, where technology, tourism, property industry, and investors from around the world gather in one place to meet, network and form collaborations.

The main objective of the summit is to boost the confidence of the tourism and property industries, especially after the pandemic, by having industry experts shed some light on the future trends of the industry with the strong support of data and insights.

Airbnb Southeast Asia territory manager Kwan Synsatayakul said that the company is actively evolving its platform to meet the industry's changing needs as more international travellers are looking to live and work from anywhere. [READ MORE](#)



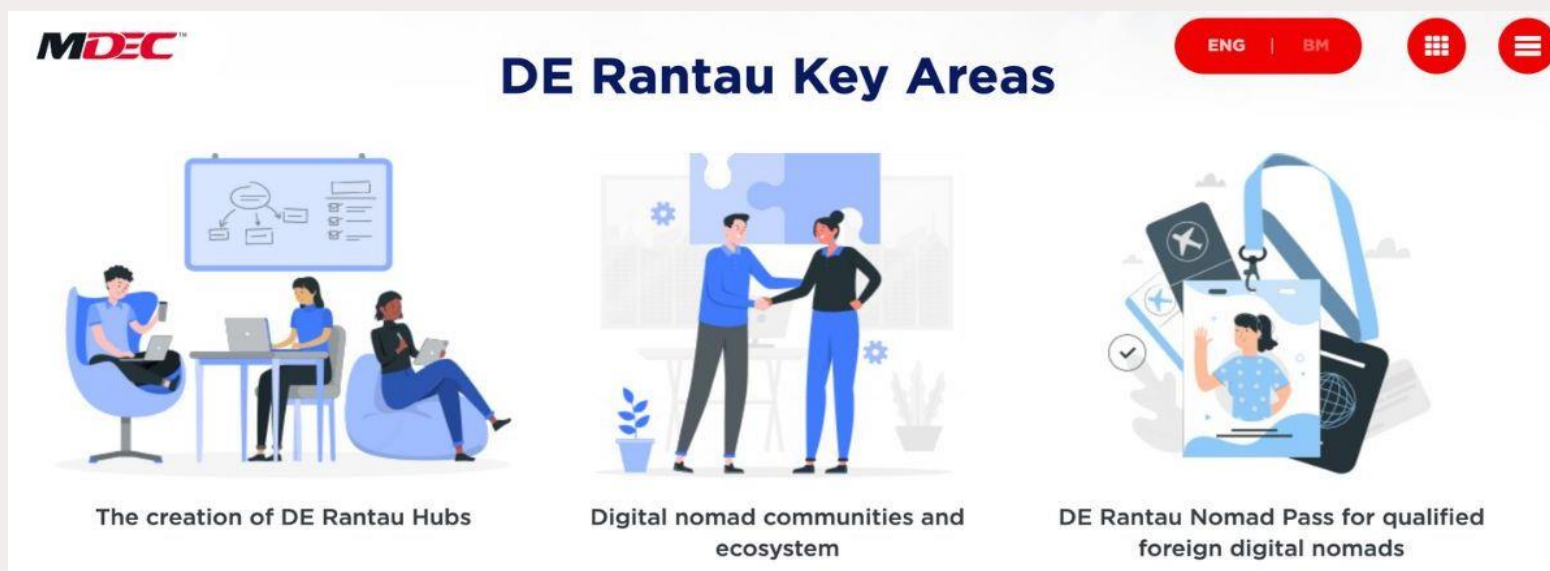
Malaysia tapping into digital nomad sector

Malaysia has joined the list of countries that issue visas for digital nomads, which is aimed at fostering mobility among digital professionals within the local tourism industry. The move has also been adopted by Thailand, Estonia, Malta, Croatia, Mexico, Spain and Portugal.

The visa for such travellers is part of the DE Rantau Programme promoted by Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation Sdn Bhd (MDEC), that started on Oct 1.

Digital nomads are those who live nomadic lives while using technology and the internet to work remotely. Such individuals usually do their work in rented premises, hotels, cafes, public libraries, co-working spaces or recreational vehicles/campervans, using Wi-fi, smartphones or mobile hotspots to access the internet.

It was reported that DE Rantau received over 2,000 applications within 18 days after the launch of the programme and in its first phase, locations such as Penang, Langkawi, Kedah and Kuala Lumpur were named as digital nomad hubs. [READ MORE](#)



AirAsia to restore four flight routes connecting Taiwan with Southeast Asian cities

AirAsia is set to bring back three flight routes connecting Taipei with three Southeast Asian cities by mid-December after having recently restored its Kaohsiung-Kuala Lumpur route, the low-cost airline said on Sunday (Nov. 13).

AirAsia's flight AK170 from Kuala Lumpur landed at Kaohsiung International Airport at 9:55 p.m. on Saturday, marking the first direct flight between Malaysia and Taiwan in two years.

Since AirAsia began operations in 2004, the routes to Kaohsiung and Taipei have been among the airline's most popular routes, AirAsia Malaysia CEO Riad Asmat said.

With international travel limits relaxing in Taiwan, AirAsia said it will restore more flight routes connecting Taiwan and Southeast Asia.

AirAsia said that it is set to restore the Taipei-Kuala Lumpur route on Dec. 1, the Taipei-Sabah route on Dec. 10, and the Taipei-Chiang Mai route on Dec. 15. [READ MORE](#)



Marriott launches brand for bleisure travelers: Apartments by Marriott

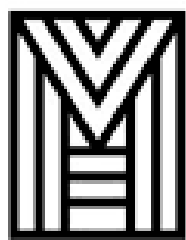
Marriott International is launching a brand that will cater to “bleisure” travelers — those who combine business trips with vacation time, a niche of traveler that has expanded since the pandemic began.

Apartments by Marriott Bonvoy will also appeal to younger travelers’ desire for more accommodation options, Marriott said.

Marriott’s brands already include Marriott Executive Apartments in Asia, Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America.

Apartments by Marriott Bonvoy will focus on the U.S. and Canadian markets. It will differ from its other extended stay brands by not having on-site food and beverage services, meeting spaces or retail.

In addition to living rooms, bedrooms and full kitchens, the apartments will have in-unit washers and dryers. The properties will be positioned in the upscale and luxury segments. [READ MORE](#)



APARTMENTS
by MARRIOTT BONVOY™



Radisson Hotel Group launches new midscale brand Park Inn & Suites by Radisson in India

Radisson Hotel Group has entered into a strategic alliance with Ruptub Solutions Pvt Ltd, which owns the brand 'Treebo', to launch its new mid-scale brand Park Inn & Suites by Radisson.

The brand will target Tier 2 to Tier 5 cities.

Ruptub Solutions operates a domestic chain of more than 1,000 properties in more than 120 cities across India under the brand 'Treebo'.

"The partnership will identify and convert quick-to-market opportunities targeting the development of a 150-hotel-strong network of Park Inn & Suites by Radisson properties over the next decade," Radisson Hotel Group said on Thursday.

Park Inn & Suites by Radisson will have an average size of 50 to 70 rooms.

Sidharth Gupta, Founder and Director of Ruptub Solutions Pvt Ltd, told PTI the Park Inn & Suites offering will initially target two Southern states of Karnataka and Kerala, and the seven North Eastern States. [READ MORE](#)



park inn
by *Radisson*