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Debate championship brings the globe's brightest young minds to Malaysia

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia – One of the most prestigious varsity debating championship in the world is finally hitting Malaysian shores again this July 2013. The Australasian Intervarsity Debating Championship 2013, or better known as "Australs", is the world's second largest debating tournament and will be held here from the 14th until the 22nd July 2013. Previously, Malaysia has been given the privilege to host the event in 1993, 2003 and 2007.

The host of this event that will bring talented outspoken youths from around the region to our doors is none other than Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM). UiTM won the right to host Australs after a successful bid at the 2012 Australs held in Victoria University Wellington, New Zealand. It will be hosted with the collaboration of the Malaysian Institute for Debate and Public Speaking (MIDP) and the support of the Ministry of Education and Malaysia Major Events, a division of Malaysia Convention & Exhibition Bureau an agency under the Ministry of Tourism and Culture. Australs 2013 will see 500 participants from 17 countries in the Asia Pacific region competing for the championship cup.

En. Zulkefli Hj Sharif, Chief Executive Officer of Malaysia Convention & Exhibition Bureau stated "The Australs 2013 is another plus for the nation's portfolio of major niche events. The gathering of Intervarsity youths from around Australasia for this debating championship will make focus of Malaysia as the hub for educational and socially engaging events. This will also complement the variety of events highlighted during the promotional year for Visit Malaysia Year 2014"

Four major showcase events will be held during Australs in scenic venues across Kuala Lumpur and Shah Alam, namely the Opening Night at the Institute for Diplomacy and Foreign Relations, Jalan Wisma Putra; Women's Night at Duchess Place, Jalan Ampang; Championship Dinner at Grand Ballroom at DoubleTree by Hilton and the Grand Finals plus the Closing Ceremony at Dewan Agong Tuanku Canselor, UiTM Shah Alam.

Amongst the honourable attendees who are in support of this prestigious event will be Tan Sri Dato' Sri Prof. Ir Dr Sahol Hamid Abu Bakar, Vice-Chancellor of UiTM, Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, IDFR Director-General; Dato' Saifuddin Abdulah, Patron of MIDP; and Prof. Dato' Dr. Abdullah bin Mohamed Said, Deputy Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs in UiTM.

As the Malaysian audience looks forward to this gathering of the world's best speakers, UiTM aims to make UT MARA Australs 2013 an invaluable platform for local debaters to have a chance at the challenge while providing exposure to international standards of debating. With the meeting of brightest young local minds in Australs 2013, the host aspires to have this intellectual discourse be a motivation for our youth to improve upon their elocution prowess and intellectual might.

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