

CAPITAL

# Malaysia Exhibition Showcases Best of Malaysian Services



Malaysian officials presented new products and services at the Korme exhibition complex in Astana.

By Ruffiya Ospanova

ASTANA – The Malaysia Services Exhibition 2013 (MSE 2013), which showcased the best of this country's services, launched on June 4 at the Korme exhibition complex. The pavilions where representatives of Malaysian companies showed a diverse range of high-quality products and services in spheres including construction, consultancy, healthcare and others were crowded with people interested in cooperating with those companies.

It was noted that Kazakhstan provides trade and investment opportunities for the companies, which are striving to establish new directions in one of the most dynamically developing markets. Kazakhstan's capital, Astana, rapidly developing both as an ad-

ministrative and business centre, was chosen due to the country's possibilities as a modern and diversified economy with a profitable high-tech industry. Malaysian representatives said. The participation of Malaysian companies in the exhibition was aimed at further developing close business partnerships and establishing joint enterprises with local companies, as well as increasing awareness of Malaysian service suppliers.

Yerlan Khairov, chairman of the Investment Committee of the Ministry of Industry and New Technologies, noted in his welcoming speech the importance of cooperation between Malaysia and Kazakhstan. "I would like to ask our guests to consider our country not only the way to Kazakhstan, but also the way to the Customs Union, where the population is over

170 million people. I want to wish everyone fruitful work and success," he said.

Dr. Wong Lai Sum, when she took the floor, noted the importance of cooperation between Kazakhstan and Malaysia.

"This is the twelfth exhibition organised by the Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE), but this is the first exhibition of this kind held in Kazakhstan," she said. "It is an important fact that the ambassador of Malaysia to Kazakhstan and the ambassador of Kazakhstan to Malaysia are rendering assistance to the companies to promote cooperation between Kazakhstan and Malaysia."

The ties of the two countries have become stronger because more areas of cooperation have appeared in both countries' mar-

kets. Cooperation in the sphere of education is also an important indicator of better cooperation. "MSE Astana 2013 will showcase the expertise and capabilities of Malaysian services companies under seven clusters, namely construction and its related services, logistics and freight forwarding, information and communication technology (ICT), education, healthcare services, franchises [and] business services," Dr. Wong concluded.

After the welcoming speeches, Chairman Khairov, Dr. Wong and the Ambassador of Malaysia to Kazakhstan Dato'Ahmad Rasidi Bin Hazizi cut the ribbon to open the exhibition. After this ceremony they visited the pavilions showcasing services and goods.

The Malaysian ambassador in an interview said, "Last year's visit of

President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan to Malaysia promoted cooperation between the two countries. Of course, our cooperation with your companies is longstanding; however, we are not going to stop at the current level. Today we plan to hold 15 business meetings within the exhibition."

A total of 31 companies with 54 representatives participated in the event. The Malaysian exhibitors in the construction cluster showcased architectural, engineering and construction services, manufacturers of park equipment, and interior and exterior lighting services. In addition to the exhibition, there were concurrent events including seminars and business meetings for the participants. More than 600 business meetings have been pre-arranged for participants.

The inaugural MSE was held in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, in 2008, where MATRADE presented 11 services sectors with a total of 168 participants. To date, MATRADE had successfully organised 11 MSE programmes.

MATRADE is Malaysia's national trade promotion agency. Established in March 1993, MATRADE's primary role is to assist Malaysian exporters in developing and expanding their export markets. Assisted by a network of 40 overseas offices located in major commercial cities around the world, MATRADE provides a wide range of assistance to both Malaysian exporters and foreign buyers of Malaysian products and services who are sourcing for trade-related information.

# Kyrgyz Artists Show Their Vision of Illusion on the Steppe



Kyrgyz artists have displayed their vision of Astana at the Palace of Peace and Harmony.

By Bektur Kadyrov

ASTANA – An exhibition called "Astana in the art of Kyrgyz artists" dedicated to the 15th anniversary of Kazakhstan's capital is now open in the Palace of Independence. It includes about one hundred works of 17 well-known Kyrgyz artists, and all of them are devoted to Astana.

It was organized at the initiative of the Embassy of Kazakhstan in the Kyrgyz Republic with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Kyrgyz Republic, as well as the department of culture of Astana and a group of patrons of arts.

Ambassador of Kazakhstan to the Kyrgyz Republic Beibit Isabayev, Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Kyrgyz Repub-

lic Sultan Rayev, and Minister of Culture and Information of Kazakhstan Mukhtar Kul-Muhammed officially launched the exhibition on June 6.

Kyrgyz artists have presented their original art and their perception of what some would call the "Illusion on the Steppe."

The artists are national artists of Kyrgyzstan, winners of prestigious international exhibitions Rifkat Bukharmetov, Saparbay Osmonaliev, Soyutbek Torobekov, Ormon Idrissov, Dina Tserendorzhieva, Jumabek Bazarbayev and others. In 2011-2013, these artists, supported by the club of friends of the Embassy of Kazakhstan in Kyrgyzstan, were working in Astana, and now the results of their work are on display in the Palace of Independence.

The authors presented not only traditional pictures of summer and

autumn (most colourful) motives, but also the winter motives, which is quite challenging because it is difficult for an artist to show white colour.

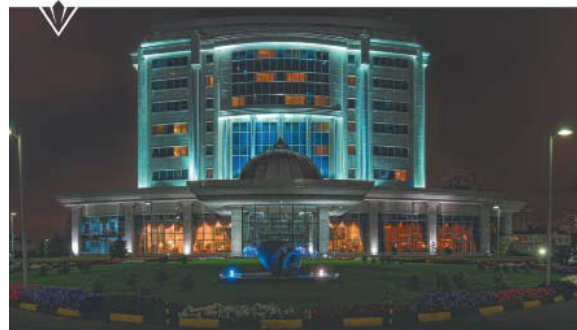
With noticeable curiosity the artists pictured "frost and sun," entertainment on ice-hills, snowmobile races – the joys of the northern people, which are little known to the artists from the southern areas. They painted different parts of Astana, including the old, Tselinograd part of the city, where one-story houses with courtyards are still present.

However, the most inspiring parts of the city were the symbols of the city – the Baiterek Tower, the Palace of Peace and Reconciliation, the Islamic Center, other colourful sights and objects, such as the Georgian restaurant Bagrationi and the Melnitsa (Mill) Ukrainian restaurant.

Saparbay Osmonaliev's portrait of Nursultan Nazarbayev, the first President of Kazakhstan, against the background of Astana in full view became the centerpiece of the exhibition. The painting is called the "City of Dreams". Its plot is simple, but the performance is exceptional.

In addition to paintings, a large photo exhibition was presented and a catalogue with reproductions of the pictures, portraits and brief biographies of their authors in three languages were published.

The exhibition was among the first in a series of international cultural events in honor of the 15th anniversary of Astana, marked on July 6. It also anticipates the Days of Culture of Kyrgyzstan in Kazakhstan.



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