

# Conferences by the dozen as KLCC adds APLAR, IFTDO and WSBI for 2006

THE KUALA Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC) will be host venue for the Asia Pacific League of Associations for Rheumatology's (APLAR) 12th World Congress (12th APLAR 2006 Congress) to be held in the city from August 01 to 05, 2006.

Organised by APLAR and the Malaysian Society of Rheumatology (MSR), the biennial event is expected to see some 3000 doctors and allied health professionals from around the world gather to discuss the latest scientific breakthroughs and treatments in all aspects of rheumatology and to stimulate and promote awareness of rheumatic diseases.

The APLAR Congress is the region's foremost congress on rheumatology and has been hailed as the largest gathering of rheumatologists, physicians, general practitioners, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and other allied health professionals such as podiatrists, dieticians, psychologists and medical social workers from the developing world.

Other big wins for KLCC include the 35th International Federation of Training & Development Organisations (IFTDO) World Conference & Exhibition 2006, the 21st World Savings Banks Institute (WSBI) World Congress 2006 and the 16th International Congress on Archives 2008.

The 35th IFTDO World Conference & Exhibition 2006 will be held from 22 to 25 August, 2006 and is anticipated to attract some 3,000 Human Resource professionals from around the world.

The Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre has also been selected by the WSBI, one of the largest international banking associations and the only global representative of savings and retail banks, for its 21st WSBI World Congress 2006. To be held from 20 to 22 September, 2006, the congress; themed "Savings Banks: the Retail Gateway to a Global Market. Driving Sustainable Development", is co-organised by the WSBI and its host Malaysian Member, Bank Simpanan Nasional (BSN). The three-day event will see some 600 financial, economic, social, political and civil society professionals gather to share their views on current and upcoming retail banking developments and to debate the impending opportunities and challenges for proximity banks and their clients in a globalised society with a special focus on the Asian region.

The 16th International Congress on Archives (ICA) will be staged in 2008. ICA can be likened to the Olympics as the Congress takes place once every four years. To be attended by



The first event at the new KLCC — 10th Asia Oil & Gas Conference.

all ICA member countries, archival institutions and archivists from around the world, the meeting seeks to continue expanding the professional ties of corporations and solidarity with the rest of the world. The hosts of the 2008 congress are the ICA and the Malaysian Chapter, the National Archives of Malaysia. After Beijing, Malaysia is only the second Asian country in the history of the ICA to be selected to host the quadrennial congress.

The Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre is a wholly owned facility of Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre Sdn Bhd in turn owned by KLCC (Holdings) Bhd which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Petroliam Nasional Berhad (PETRONAS).

The Centre consists of 2 auditoria (to seat 3,000 and 500 respectively), 9710m<sup>2</sup> of exhibition halls, a Grand Ballroom to seat 2000 diners, a Banquet Hall for 600, a Conference Hall for 1800 and 20 further meeting rooms representing an investment of RM550m (approximately US\$146m) and 20,059m<sup>2</sup> of function space in the heart of Kuala Lumpur.

Since its opening in mid-June through to September 2005, the Centre has been the host venue for 129 events attended by over 400,000 people producing 410,000 delegate days and an estimated economic benefit to Kuala Lumpur of RM166 million (approximately US\$44 million).

They join some 336 events already confirmed to be held at the RM550 million (approximately US\$146 million) Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre between now and 2012.