

More Japanese are coming to Malaysia for Treatment

Japan – 30 March 2014, Japanese are the 3rd highest foreign patients in Malaysia after Indonesia and India. More Japanese medical travellers are coming to Malaysia for its value-for-money, high quality care and competitive pricing. Malaysia is one of the very few countries from around the world where medical tourism is well regulated under its government.

The Malaysia Healthcare Travel Council (MHTC), a corporate primary agency under the Ministry of Health Malaysia is responsible for the development and promotion of the healthcare travel industry of Malaysia. With 72 top notch member facilities under its care providing tertiary care and offering procedures ranging from simple health screening to high end medical procedures like robotic surgery, use of cyber knife in cancer treatment and minimally invasive surgeries which are popularly sought by medical travellers to Malaysia, Malaysia's healthcare system was recently ranked no 3 worldwide by International Living in its 2014 Global Retirement Index.

The Ministry of Health Malaysia plays an important role in ensuring that private health facilities in its country adhere to all the necessary safety and quality requirements by regulating them through an Act of Parliament, the Private Healthcare Facilities and Services Act 1998 and Regulations 2006. The medical facilities registered with MHTC are carefully selected and each of them has its own niche and centre of excellence in their respective medical discipline. Recently Malaysian private hospitals bagged 3 out of 9 awards presented during the inaugural IMTJ Medical Travel Awards 2014 held in Dubai in March this year. The awards won are in these categories:-

1. International Hospital of the Year – by Gleneagles Kuala Lumpur
2. International Dental Clinic of the Year – by Imperial Dental Specialist Clinic
3. International Infertility Clinic of the Year – by Prince Court Medical Centre

Through its recent Malaysia International Healthcare Travel Expo (MIHTE) held in October 2013, the country attracted more than 1300 key stakeholders from the healthcare travel industry worldwide who took the opportunity to network, meet and exchange experiences among the whole healthcare travel value chain. Also present were some notable speakers from Japan such as Mr. Shigeo Maruo (Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism), Mr. Sho Nagata (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare), Professor Dr. Toshiki Mano (TAMA University), Mr. Kazuo Mizutani (University Medical Centre East) and a few others. Some of the key topics addressed were the collaboration and partnership of Malaysia and Japan for the betterment of healthcare and growing the medical tourism industry together.

The number of medical tourists to Malaysia has increased from 583,000 in 2011 to 671,000 in 2012 and we are expecting the same 15 percent growth in 2013 as well.

Malaysia has a dedicated call centre (MHTC Careline:- + 603 272 68 688); operational from 9.00am-6.00pm; Monday to Friday to handle all enquiries on healthcare travel in Malaysia. E-mail support in Japanese language is also available at callcentre@mhtc.org.my for your medical needs. There are Japanese speaking doctors and nurses in selected hospitals, Japanese translator arrangement upon request, ample choices of Japanese cuisines, Japanese Clubs, Schools, establishment of the Japan External Trade Organisation in Kuala Lumpur and daily direct flights from major cities in Japan (Tokyo & Osaka) thus making Malaysia a convenient and preferred destination of choice for medical tourism.

MHTC's presence in Japan this year will include participating in the Malaysia Healthcare Press Conference and Seminar Series in August 2014.

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About the Malaysia Healthcare Travel Council (MHTC)

The Malaysia Healthcare Travel Council (MHTC) was established by the government of Malaysia as the primary agency to develop the healthcare travel industry and promote Malaysia as the preferred destination for healthcare travel in the region. MHTC works closely with all relevant government agencies and private healthcare organisations to ensure quality care and facilitate smooth entry for our healthcare travellers.