

## Improving the public transport arena

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, March.11 /TRANSIT/- Public transport in Kuala Lumpur and the Klang Valley covers a variety of transport modes such as bus, rail and taxi. Unlike in most other major Asian cities, utilization rates are low. Currently, only 16 percent of the population uses public transportation. Among reasons of low usage are because 50% of Kuala Lumpur residents do not originate from Kuala Lumpur and hence drive their own private vehicles when moving into Kuala Lumpur. The covering area of the rail line is also not wide enough so less people can use them. However, ridership of the public transport system has increased due to the hike in petrol prices. Hence, the government is planning to extend the system to accommodate this increase.

In the latest budget for the fiscal year 2009, there has been a RM35 billion allocation for the improvement of public transportation in Malaysia. This budget is not only to improve the existing transportation, but also looks at extending the current urban rail service network. Emphasis has also been placed on extending public transport to areas that lie slightly outside the main urban districts.

According to Dr. Hussein S. Lidasan, Transport Economist, National Centre for Transportation Studies, University of the Philippines in Diliman, *'People tend to perceive congestion as the main cause of urban transportation problems. However, traffic congestion is not the root but rather the manifestation of the intertwining technical and institutional problems affecting urban transportation.'*

Against this backdrop, Marcus Evans, will be holding [Sustainable Urban Transport Integration](#) on May 12 and May 13 at Prince Hotel, KL, Malaysia.

This conference will be officiated by Jaine Wajiman, Head of Traffic and Public Transportation, Division Kota Kinabalu City Hall. About the conference speakers: Simon Whiteley, Former General Manager Policy & Planning Land Transport New Zealand, Wellington; Jiao Feng, BRT Project Assistant, Institute for Transportation and Development Policy, China; Eddie Lim Sing Loong, Deputy Director, Road Pricing, Land Transport Authority, Singapore; Oravit Hemachudha, Deputy Director, Traffic and Transport Office, Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, Thailand; Felix Iryantomo, Assistant Director, Directorate of Urban Transport System Development, Ministry of Transportation Republic of Indonesia. This event is also supported by The Association for the Improvement of Mass-Transit (TRANSIT), Malaysian Institute of Road Safety Research (MIROS), International MultiModal Transport Association (IMMTA) and ACN Newswire.

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