**MALAYSIA NEWS UPDATE**

**FOR ICOM ASPAC MEMBERS & MINI SITE**

Dear All!Greetings from The Department of Museums Malaysia!

Hope everyone are well and stay safe during this COVID19 pandemic.

As we get closer to the end of the month of Syawal based on the Islamic calendar, I hope it is not too late for me to wish my Muslim friends and all Muslims around the world, “Selamat Hari Raya Aidilfitri”, “Happy Eid Al-Fitr”. May this year’s celebration come with full of love, peace and prosperity!

The Coronavirus disease (Covid-19) was confirmed to have reached [Malaysia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malaysia) in January 2020 and as jumps in cases began to occur in early March, 16th. The government expressed great concern over the escalation of the outbreak and few measures like Movement Control Order (MCO), Conditional Movement Control Order (CMCO) and a Recovery Movement Control Order (RMCO) starting from June 10th until August 31st, have recently announced to combat the widespread disease. Although this recent news indicates that Malaysian has successfully controlled the spread of COVID-19 and obtain greater freedom to resume nearly all social, commercial and economic activities, interstate travel and domestic tourism, religious activities and vice versa, it is completely under the requirement of strict standard operating procedure (SOP) set by the Government. Since the implementation of the restrictions, Malaysia has banned citizens from leaving the country and foreign visitors to enter since the implementation of the movement control order until present.

Due to this great concern on the ongoing worldwide of Covid-19 pandemic and as an endless support to the Government’s effort to normalize its rapid spread, the Department of Museums Malaysia (DMM) has cancelled the annual event of the National Level Celebration of the International Museum Day 2020 celebrated every 18th of May. Nonetheless, museums and galleries at the federal and state levels have used various ideas and innovations to diversify and enrich online programs and activities in many ways. This is to ensure that museums and galleries remain relevant to the general public as a site of knowledge sharing.

During this RMCO, all museology institutions will gear up for wave of visitors including the federal museums under the DMM’s supervision. DMM will resume all the museums nationwide effectively on June, 16th by complying with museum’s guidelines and SOPs implemented for the public's safety, as well as abiding with International Councils of Museums (ICOM) recommendations. DMM has slightly implementing the “museums new normal” culture, whereby all museums will be opened from Tuesday to Sunday, 9am to 5pm, ticket fee remains unchanged and children under 12 years will not be accessible to enter the museums. Several DMM’s main exhibitions and programmes have also been postponed next year as a result of this global pandemic. However, an upcoming special exhibition named PANDEMIC will be held soon to encourage a better public understanding towards staying safe and healthy during this Covid-19 disease.

Best Regards,

**DATUK KAMARUL BAHARIN BIN A.KASIM**

**DIRECTOR GENERAL**

**DEPARTMENT OF MUSEUMS MALAYSIA**

**FEDERAL TERRITORY OF KUALA LUMPUR**

**MALAYSIA**

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