

Walter FRANÇOIS
presents

MALAYSIA

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COVER: THE SULTAN ABDUL SAMAT BUILDING

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*Perpustakaan Negara
Malaysia*



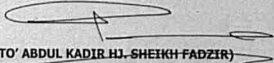
MENTERI KEBUDAYAAN, KESENIAN DAN PELANCONGAN MALAYSIA
(Minister Of Culture, Arts & Tourism Malaysia)

MESSAGE

The fabric of Malaysian society is woven by the threads of our rich, multi-ethnic heritage, of our population who has learnt to practise mutual tolerance, acceptance and celebration of each other's customs, traditions and lifestyles. These are facets that make Malaysia so colourful and fascinating to others. Yet we are very mindful of our roots and how we came together to be what we are today, a united and harmonious people.

The diversity of Malaysia's cultural heritage is matched by that of our landscape. Mother nature has been kind, endowing us with great mountains and rivers, idyllic tropical islands and palm-fringed beaches. Our majestic rainforest is a backdrop of boundless beauty and provides habitat for an amazing proliferation of wildlife and plant species.

I would like to congratulate Mr Walter Francois and Mr Yvan Deweerdt for producing "Walter FRANCOIS presents MALAYSIA". This photo book captures the essence of Malaysia and will, I hope, serve as an invitation to visit Malaysia.



(DATU' ABDUL KADIR H. SHEIKH FADZIR)

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THE AUTHOR'S MISSION: TO MAKE MALAYSIA BETTER KNOWN TO THE PEOPLE IN HIS OWN COUNTRY, BELGIUM, AS WELL AS THE PEOPLES OF EUROPE AND INDEED PEOPLES ALL OVER THE WORLD.

Yeoh Oon Chuan, a journalist for a local daily, The Malay Mail, in his article of September 3rd 1999, entitled "FRANCOIS OUT TO SELL MALAYSIA" explains my special love for Southeast Asia, and Malaysia in particular.

In 1997 Malaysia and other countries in Southeast Asia were struck by the worst financial crisis they have ever experienced. The economic policy adopted by Malaysia to combat the crisis was innovative and unorthodox. This policy came under sharp criticism in the western world.

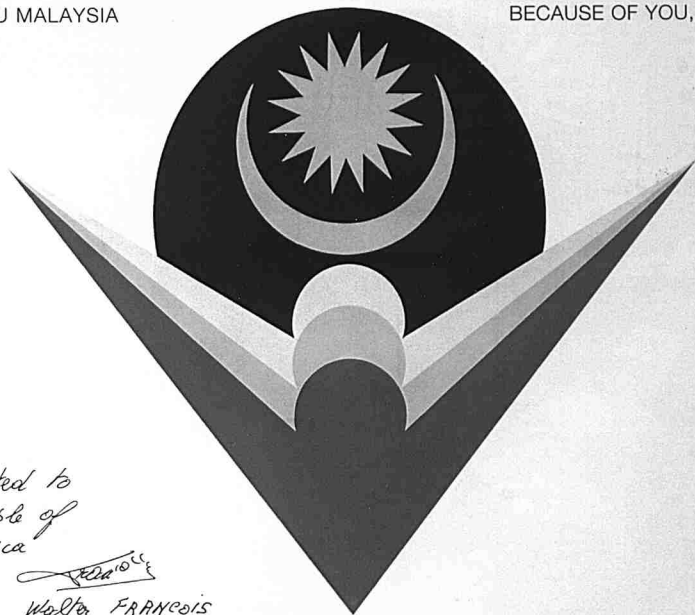
Despite the severe financial set backs, Malaysia succeeded in overcoming the crisis. Malaysia's achievements, before and after the crisis, can truly be described as impressive. Through the implementation of sound and appropriate socio-economic policies, the multi-ethnic and multireligious people of Malaysia were able to develop the country.

Tourism has tremendous potential for growth in this country. Just about everything a modern world explorer is looking for can be found in this paradise on earth, which is aptly captured in the tourism slogan "MALAYSIA TRULY ASIA".

The main objective of this book is not to emphasize the photogenic qualities of the Malaysian landscape, but to illustrate how the local population have harmoniously adapted to their own environment and the world at large without losing their distinctive character.

This typically Malaysian character is found in a basic Malaysian reality – that is, this country and its people, located in a strategic crossroad of the world, survive by reaching outwards. This is reflected as much in the enormous variety of culinary delights as in the hospitality, moderation and tolerance of its people.

Malaysia is truly a confluence of many cultures.



*Dedicated to
the people of
Malaysia*

Walter Francis

Walter FRANCIS

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