

The cosmopolitan heart of the country: KUALA LUMPUR



KL 21st century



KL 19th century

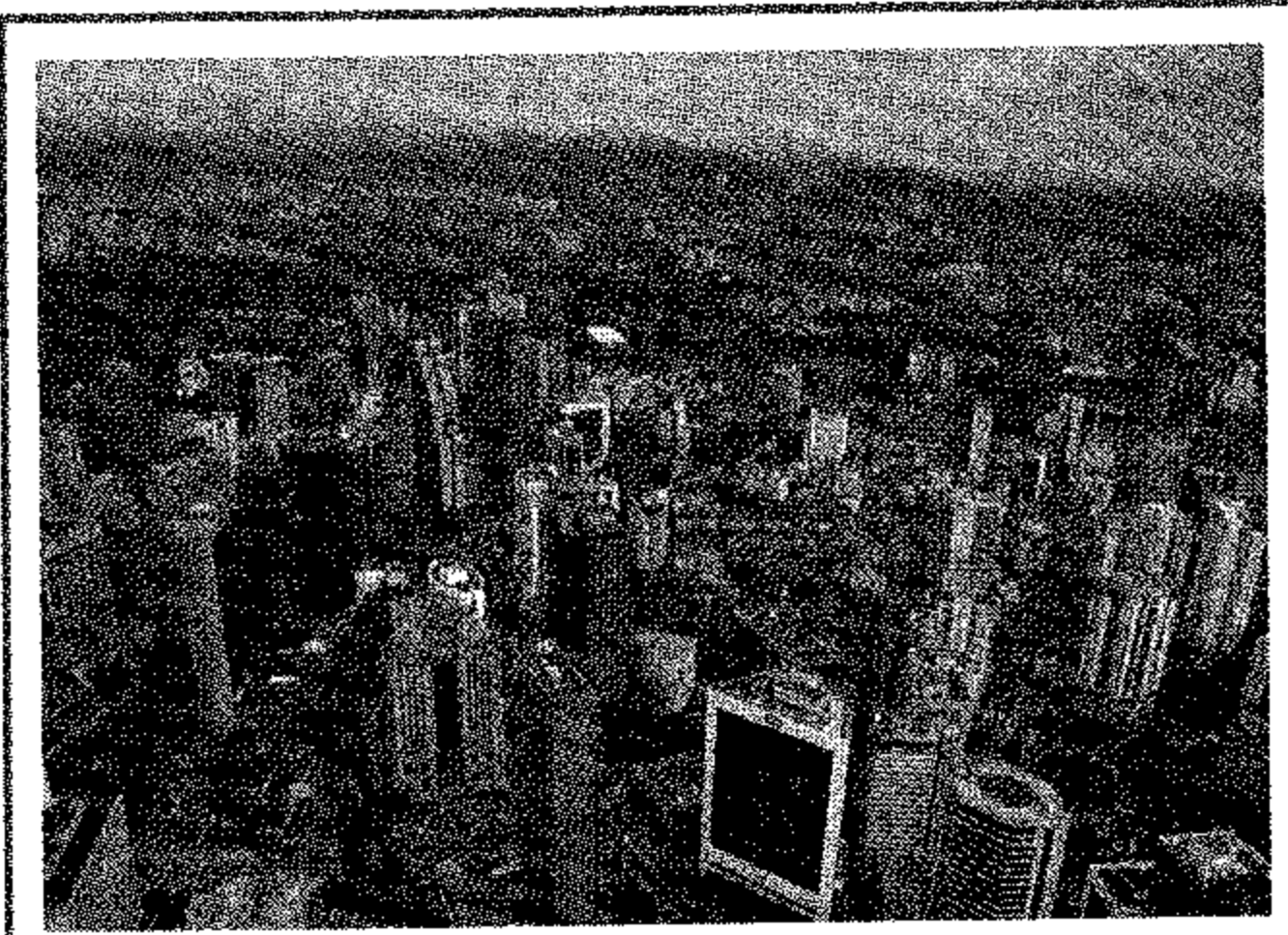
Capital of the country and largest city of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur is the urban powerhouse that declares to the world that KL is a global city, an Asian metropolis. With 150 years of existence under its belt it has much to be proud of (see box). But one of the things its distinctly proud of—even though it resides in the state of Selangor—is being one of the three Malaysian Federal Territories (the others being Putrajaya and Labuan) a status given to it in 1974. The country's legislature sits in the city, hosting both

the House of Representatives and the Senate but previously KL hosted the Malaysian judiciary and executive arms also. With the completion of Putrajaya in 1999, both arms have since migrated to this new administrative centre of Malaysia.

Since its humble beginnings, KL has flourished both as a trading centre and a melting pot of the various cultures. Distinctly Malaysian, the city has the three main cultures Malay, Chinese and Indian, all well represented in every aspect of life.

Over the years, KL has gained a name as one of the most progressive capitals in South East Asia, known for exceptional recreation, shopping and exciting activities.

Today the city is administered by the Lord Mayor who oversees the development and maintenance of the city who in turn reports to the Federal Territories Minister. (See interview)



HAPPY BIRTHDAY KUALA LUMPUR!

Kuala Lumpur celebrates its 150th anniversary of founding this year; it's safe to say that back in the mid-1800s the small mining settlement at the confluence of the Gombak and Klang rivers never knew that it would one day become one of Asia's fastest moving and wealthiest cities. In 1857, Raja Abdullah, a member of the Yam Tuan and the Klang administer, came to the sleepy town of KL looking for tin ore. And found it he did, causing a bustling industry—and city—to develop within decades. Along with Chinese merchant and legend Yap Ah Loy, KL was solidly on the map of Asia as a town of industry and prosperity and by 1896, became the capital the Federated Malay States. When independence came to Malaysia in 1957, KL naturally became the capital of the new country by 1963 and a Federal Territory in 1974.

For more about the city, it's history what's happening and travel information log onto the website or call DBKL.

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