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**Malcom targets 12% market share in steel tube segment**  
 Malaysian steel tube manufacturer Malcom aims to capture 12% market share in the local steel tube segment, in the first year of its latest launch.



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**IFP members seek to ease deal without US**  
 Remaining members of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) free trade agreement are working on a statement to reaffirm their commitment to it.

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**Secret EMERs by SoftBank's tech fund**  
 SoftBank Group Corp and Saudi Arabia formally announced the first round of capital commitments for the largest-ever technology investment fund.

► ISLAMIC FINANCE

**Business as usual for Shariah financing in US**  
 Islamic finance remains robust in the US despite the recent backlash on the Muslim community, according to a financial adviser at Arch Street Capital Advisors LLC.

## DeGo continues to ride in battle for public opinion

by MARK BAO

MANY thought that DeGo Bhd's fate was sealed when the authorities rejected any form of two-wheeled vehicles to be part of the country's public transportation agenda.

The author has had already chosen to reject the use of "two-wheeled" vehicles as part of the e-hailing industry even before the proposed amendments to the related laws. Warnings of legal repercussions were awarded to operators who crossed the line.

So, it was not a surprise when the proposed amendments to the Commercial Vehicles Licensing Board Act 1987 and Land Public Transport Act 2010 tabled in the Dewan Rakyat in March this year made no mention of authorising the use of "two-wheeled" vehicles as part of the e-hailing industry.

DeGo may have lost the battle of legality, but it has not lost the battle for public opinion.

Founder and CEO Nabil Faisal Basmah had been silent over the fate of the company since the tabling of the proposed amendments.

Instead of downing himself in sorrow, Nabil has continued to drive business along and all seems not lost for the young entrepreneur.

He said the company has been growing since it made headlines in the local media early this year.

On the despite over its legality, Nabil said this had actually created more awareness about the company and an appeal to stiffen its growth, proving that legitimacy can't be stopped.

For the full story, here is page 7.



**CAREER AND EDUCATION FAIR** Thousands of visitors thronged the Career and Education Fair 2017 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, as they seek job opportunities in some of the country's leading companies. The 3-day career and education fair, which ended yesterday, provided jobseekers a platform to connect with Malaysia's corporate leaders and participate in seminars at the event.

## RGM sees likelihood of another subdued year for retail sales

*The ringgit has not appreciated enough to cushion the rise in inflation, says MD*

by UZAT RATNA

RETAIL Group Malaysia (RGM) has not ruled out another slow year as the challenging economic environment, uncertain market sentiment and inflationary pressures continue

to subside the almost RM300 billion sector.

MD Tan Hui Hui said the country's inflation rose in the first quarter of 2017 (Q1) to 5%, compared to 2% at the end of 2016, and the ringgit had not appreciated enough to cushion the blow.

"For the time being, the expected retail sales growth rate projection remains as what was revealed in our March report," he told The Malaysian Reserve recently.

RGM had earlier projected a 3% growth in retail sales this year but that revised the trajectory to 2%.

Tan said the Q1 retail data is expected to be released next month, which would give an indication on how the industry performed in the first three months of 2017.

The ringgit had been the best performing currency in Asia on a par with the SGD strength, rising 2.3% against the greenback, according to Standard Chartered

Global Research.

However, such improvement had not raised expectations of a bumper rebound for the industry — which registered sales of about RM50 billion, or 9% of the country's gross domestic product.

Tan said the greenback's strengthening and the oil price rise would have a negative impact on the retail industry.

"Both of these factors would affect

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As featured in  
 Malaysian Reserve

# A Great Hotel Stay at Oasia Suites Kuala Lumpur

Oasia Suites KL is the 1st expansion of the Oasia brand in Malaysia by Singapore hospitality operator

by NG REN SHEN

THE bustling metropolis, the capital of South-East Asian galleon-land, a shopping and cultural haven — these are just a small slice of the things that make Kuala Lumpur so attractive to Malaysians as well as foreigners.

And whether you're the tourist or local, a visit to Kuala Lumpur will always be made better with a great hotel stay.

Stepping through the glass front doors of Oasia Suites Kuala Lumpur, one is greeted by a travertine driveway and a large, open-concept living washed in marble, wood and granite.

Delicate jazz and soft contemporary tunes play in the background, setting up the scene ready for the serviced malacca-style hotel.

Newly opened in the second-quarter of this year, Oasia Suites Kuala Lumpur is the first expansion of the Oasia brand in Malaysia by Singapore hospitality owner and sponsor Far East Hospitality Holdings Pte Ltd.

While visitors will be greeted by lovely potted plants for a touch of nature made up the scene.

To the left is the hotel's restaurant, Kafe Oasia, which provides an all-day dining with a glimpse of kitchen operations through the glass inside of the kitchen.

The upper floors can be accessed via two lift lobbies with the use of one's room key card for added security.

Walking down the corridor of the residential floor, both sides is a new face as early as in the 2000s, with dark neo-classical reflective walls covered in swirling decorative metal plaques.

The ceilings are low and the lifts are narrow, though this is to be expected as the hotel is situated in a converted building.

Though Oasia Suites Kuala Lumpur boasts itself as a hotel, the majority of its bookings are to long-stay guests.

My one-bedroom Premier Suite feels more like a small, cozy apartment, with enough space for both transit and mid-week stay travellers to bed in town.

The kitchenette, though small, is surprisingly well fitted with modern appliances and amenities. A comfortable sofa and a widescreen television — the first in the unit, the second is in the bedroom — add to the homely feel.

The bedroom is comfortable, large enough for a working desk and double bed with plenty of cabinet space for long-stay guests plus a bonus side view of the Kuala Lumpur Tower, depending on which way your room faces.

Warm hardwood walls and floor give off a soothing feel, in contrast to the dark lacquered wood floors in the bathroom.

A large dressing area is appreciated, although a full-length mirror would not have been amiss either.

The only mirror available (not counting the reflector stuck on wall in the living area) is in the bathroom-dressing area, which is reminiscent of an inner-closet at times.

Nevertheless, solo or short-term visitors should feel at home in the Premier Suite or in one of Oasia's Deluxe or Superior Rooms, while larger groups and longer-term guests can opt for the one-bedroom Premier Suite, two-bedroom Junior Suite or two-bedroom Premier Suite.



Premier Room bedroom



Premier Room living area and kitchenette

Two-bedroom Premier Suite kitchenette

If that isn't enough, the hotel also offers a fast-key system that constitutes a suite and a deluxe room to form a bigger apartment, ideal for groups of business travellers or large families.

All rooms and suites come with a kitchenette, living area, washing machine and dryer as well as free WiFi.

Luxury designer is available upon request at the 24-hour concierge, as are other guest amenities such as baby cots, international adapters, cribs and hypoallergenic pillows.

The hotel itself doesn't have a convenience store or vending machine, but there is a 7-Eleven next door which should take care of your

midnight cravings and basic necessities.

Breakfast at Kafe Oasia is international-style buffet, with a noticeably wider Sunday spread that includes the likes of nasi lemak, sarawak ricecakes and fried buns (not counting the standard Western fare). For other times of the day, diners can choose from a à la carte menu.

I was particularly pleased with the dinner's lack of over-salting of the food in outdoor areas.

For some local fare, Singapore such as Petaling Street and a myriad of eateries are within a ten-to-fifteen-minute drive away.

The rooftop features a somewhat uniquely-shaped swimming pool and a 24-hour gym overlooking the Kuala Lumpur city skyline.

Also on the highest floor are two meeting rooms, which can be combined for larger groups, as well as a smokers' lounge open to long-stay guests from 9am to 11pm daily.

Some rates start at RM119 per night for a deluxe room. Oasia KL may not have an extensive range of facilities, but the keynotes touches and excellent service, including the daily house-keeping and shuttle rides make up for it.

Besides, the likes of KLCC, Changkat Bukit Bintang and various other local attractions are within close range, making this an ideal location for those who want to be at the heart of Kuala Lumpur city life.



Rooftop pool on level 24



Fully equipped meeting room