

**Message from the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs
for the United Buddy Bears Exhibition in Kuala Lumpur**

On their world tour across the five continents, the Buddy Bears have now arrived in Kuala Lumpur.

The bear is the heraldic animal of Berlin. As colourful “ambassadors” for Berlin, the group of 142 Buddy Bears are helping to promote tolerance and understanding between nations, cultures and religions.

Every Bear represents a different country and was designed by one of the 142 artists from all over the world involved in this project. In their unmistakable personalities, every Bear evokes the history and culture of their creator’s homeland. Anyone who sees them is impressed not only by their size – they stand two metres tall – but also by their brilliant colours and the variety of motifs they display. Standing shoulder to shoulder in a circle, the Buddy Bears are, by virtue of their creators, a genuinely international work of art that invites every beholder to go on their own round-the-world trip.

The Buddy Bears also stand, however, for understanding and friendship between the nations. The friendship which Germany and Malaysia enjoy is of long standing. I am extremely pleased that, in token of this friendship, the Sultan of Selangor, His Royal Highness Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah Al-Haj, has agreed to become a patron of the United Buddy Bears Exhibition. In this way Germany and Malaysia are working together to build a more tolerant and peaceful world.

Dr Guido Westerwelle
Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs