Kuala Lumpur, 27 September, 2005 — The Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre’s reputation as the region’s leading purpose-built convention and exhibition centre has been further reinforced with its confirmation as the host venue for the Asia Pacific League of Associations for Rheumatology’s (APLAR) 12th World Congress (12th APLAR 2006 Congress) to be held in the city from 1 to 5 August, 2006.

Organised by APLAR and the Malaysian Society of Rheumatology (MSR), the biennial event will see some 3,000 doctors and allied health professionals from around the world gather to discuss the latest scientific breakthroughs and treatments in all aspects of rheumatology and to stimulate and promote awareness of rheumatic diseases.
The APLAR Congress is the region’s foremost congress on rheumatology and has been hailed as the largest gathering of rheumatologists, physicians, general practitioners, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and other allied health professionals such as podiatrists, dieticians, psychologists and medical social workers from the developing world.

According to Mr. Peter Brokenshire, General Manager, Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, “The Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre has been specifically designed for events such as this with its purpose-built meeting and exhibition space, all conveniently located under one roof and with some 1,500 hotel rooms on site and a further 10,000 rooms within a 10-minute radius.

“With the Asia Pacific region being the fastest growing area in the world for international association congresses, the Centre has opened at the right time to take advantage of this growth and is committed to playing its role in enhancing Kuala Lumpur’s reputation as a leading destination for this business category.”

Mr. Brokenshire expects the 12th APLAR 2006 Congress to produce significant revenue for Kuala Lumpur’s hotels, restaurants, shops and entertainment venues, with the overall economic impact anticipated to be in the range of RM$ 14.8 million (approximately USD$ 3.9 million) in direct spending.

The five-day congress will cover updates in major rheumatology topics from the world’s leading rheumatologists as well as focus on the disease in the Asia Pacific and the differences and similarities in the context with today’s global picture.

Among topics to be discussed are lupus immunogenetics, updates on the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, updates on the pathophysiology of osteoarthritis, new insights into the pathophysiology of osteoporosis, musculoskeletal ultrasound and its applications in rheumatology, surgery in rheumatic diseases and paediatric rheumatology.
Complementing the congress will be a five-day trade exhibition showcasing products and services from pharmaceutical companies, medical product and system manufacturers, publishers and educational organisations.

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NOTE TO EDITORS

About the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre
Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, a component part of Kuala Lumpur City Centre (KLCC), is a purpose-built convention & exhibition centre managed and operated by Convex Malaysia Sdn Bhd, a joint venture company between KLCC (Holdings) Bhd and Ogden International Facilities Corporation Pty Ltd, Australia.

The Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre is a wholly owned facility of Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre Sdn Bhd in turn owned by KLCC (Holdings) Bhd which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Petroliam Nasional Berhad (PETRONAS).

The Centre consists of 2 auditoria (to seat 3,000 and 500 respectively), 9,710m² of exhibition halls, a Grand Ballroom to seat 2,000 diners, a Banquet Hall for 600, a Conference Hall for 1,800 and 20 further meeting rooms representing an investment of
RM550m (approximately USD146m) and 20,059m² of function space in the heart of Kuala Lumpur.

During the first two months of operation from mid June through to the middle of August 2005 the Centre has been the host venue for 69 events attended by over 300,000 people (308,874 people) producing 320,000 delegate days (318,537 delegate days) and an estimated economic impact to Kuala Lumpur of RM$ 110 million (approximately USD$ 29 million). These represent 14 Banquets, 4 Conventions, 7 Exhibitions and 44 Meetings & Seminars.

**About the Asia Pacific League of Associations for Rheumatology (APLAR)**
Asia Pacific League of Associations for Rheumatology (APLAR) was established in 1963 as the South East Asia and Pacific Area league against rheumatism with an agenda to stimulate and promote awareness and knowledge of rheumatic diseases. APLAR’s member associations now represent more than 3,470 million people in both developed and developing nations.

*September 2005*