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المنظمة العالمية للحركة الكشفية

For immediate release

World Scout Bureau Opens New Office in Kuala Lumpur
A testimony of the Movement's growth and diversity worldwide

18 June 2014, Kuala Lumpur/Geneva: The World Scout Bureau today unveiled its new office in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia which will serve as a shared service centre for the global operations of the World Organization of Scout Movement (WOSM).

The fully-operational office has the capacity to host 30 staff members from multiple nationalities, who will support the 162 National Scout Organizations which are members of WOSM.

The new office was opened by the Honourable Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Sri Mohd Najib bin Tun Abdul Razak. Also present were the Honourable Vice President of the Republic of Philippines, Jejomar Binay, and representatives of the World Scout Committee.

In his speech, Secretary General of WOSM, Scott Teare, said: *"I am pleasantly surprised by how welcoming, diverse and vibrant Kuala Lumpur is. With every trip, I could not resist making the connection between the World Scout Movement and Kuala Lumpur. Both the city and the Movement embody a unique representation of modern life, driven by young people who are engaged and animated by strong values."*

Kuala Lumpur was chosen from amongst seven cities worldwide following an extensive independent review by PriceWaterHouse Coopers. Selection criteria included operational efficiencies, means of transportation, cost of living, talent pool and international connections. A very large majority of WOSM's National Scout Organizations endorsed this proposal.

With the new office in Kuala Lumpur, the World Scout Bureau's global network of offices has expanded to eight locations worldwide – Brussels, Cairo, Geneva, Kiev, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Nairobi and Panama City – thus allowing the World Scout Movement to be as close as possible to the National Scout Organizations. The legal seat of the World Organization of Scout Movement remains in Geneva, Switzerland.

"The Scout Movement is a volunteer-based movement and volunteers are the lifeblood of the organization. We need more people to step up, especially adult volunteers, to ensure that we grow this vibrant movement from 40 million members today to over 100 million members within the next 10 years," said Teare.

The Secretary General also extended appreciation to the Government of Malaysia, the Scout Association of Malaysia, and the World Scout Foundation as *"without their support, we would not have been able to set up this new office here in Kuala Lumpur"*.

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For images: www.flickr.com/worldscouting