

For further details please contact:

Veronica Liew Communications Manager <u>veronica.liew@wongpartners.com</u> +603 2299 6408

Building a Strategy for Gender Diversity

Wong & Partners' inaugural diversity and inclusion event held in Kuala Lumpur

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 23 March 2017 – As an extended celebration of International Women's Day this month, Wong & Partners (a member firm of Baker McKenzie International) held its inaugural diversity and inclusion client event and forum today at the Mandarin Oriental. Graced by keynote speaker Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir, the event was organised to extend the conversation beyond 8th March, and to include more voices from women leaders in corporate Malaysia to share their journeys to success and the importance of championing a gender diversity strategy in their respective organisations.

"We were very inspired by this year's theme for International Women's Day, "**Be Bold for Change**", and wanted to feature women leaders from Corporate Malaysia to share their bold moments in their respective careers," said Andre Gan, managing partner of the Firm. "We hope that this will inspire the current generation of young women in the audience today."

"As an organisation, we definitely see a gender diverse and inclusive strategy as a business imperative. The full and equitable participation of women in our organization is not just an option, it is an imperative for the success of our firm," added Andre.

Chew Kherk Ying, a partner who leads the Diversity and Inclusion Committee in the Firm, also stressed on the importance of setting a gender diverse strategy in any organization to create a more inclusive workplace culture.

"There is still a lot of room for improvement within Malaysian companies who want to attract and retain women talent. Some of what will be discussed today will focus on the initiatives that have been implemented to encourage more women to remain in the workforce, which will help them balance out their work life with their life roles of being a daughter, mother, wife or grandmother," said Kherk Ying.

Featured female leaders who will be speaking today include Datin Yasmin Merican of Trax Associates Sdn Bhd, Julia Chong of The Truly Loving Company, Kym Lim of HP PPS Sales Sdn Bhd, Malida Subhani of PepsiCo, Ami Moris of Maybank Investment Bank, Nor Rejina Abdul Rahim of Nomura Asset Management Malaysia, Chin Siew Siew of IBM Malaysia, Lily Rozita Mohd Khairi of Shell Malaysia Ltd and Sugunah Verumandy of General Electric. Alongside Adeline Wong, a senior partner and previous managing partner of Wong & Partners, senior partners and management heads from Baker McKenzie will also be on hand to moderate the panel discussions today, including Mini VandePol and Brian Henderson from Baker McKenzie, Hong Kong, Susie Beaumont from HHP Law Firm (a member firm of Baker McKenzie International), Indonesia. The event will close with a master class by Rita Shah of The Success Lab, which will focus on increasing personal impact in the workplace to influence and empower female talent.



Baker & McKenzie International

For further details please contact:

Veronica Liew Communications Manager veronica.liew@wongpartners.com +603 2299 6408

About Wong & Partners

Wong & Partners, a member firm of Baker McKenzie International, is a Malaysian law firm dedicated to providing solution-oriented legal services to its clients. The Firm uniquely combines its rich local knowledge with broad global capabilities. Since its establishment in 1998, Wong & Partners has grown steadily and now consists of 18 partners and more than 50 associates. The Firm's lawyers are able to deliver comprehensive and integrated advice to clients, and are trusted by respected domestic and multinational corporations for their needs in Malaysia and throughout Asia. The Firm's lawyers are committed to helping clients apply industry-specific, innovative and practical solutions. (www.wongpartners.com)

