# Media Release

## AMBC VIC Announces Melbourne Malaysia Milan Cultural Photographic Project

**Monday April 27, 2015.** Australia Malaysia Business Council (AMBC) Victoria President Mr. Joe Perri has announced a project that will focus on the cultures of the Australian Malaysian and Italian communities through their Food Fibre and Fashion recorded photographically and culminating with a photographic exhibition and launch of an eBook in Milan in late 2016.

The project will be promoted as **Melbourne Malaysia Milan** and has been the longtime goal of AMBC Victoria member Mr. Colin Abbott. The objective is to bring documentary photographers and writers together to explore cultural sustainability with the production of an eBook to provide a permanent record of the three cultures and enhance cultural awareness and appreciation.

"The project also seeks to build on Melbourne's sister city relationship with Milan and deepen the connections between the communities of the three countries," said Colin Abbott. "In addition, the completed images and text in Italian, Malaysian and English would be captured in an eBook that will educate the public in what has been – and what can be achieved".

Joe Perri confirmed that a further objective of the project is to support the efforts of the Pandawas Academy, a Kuala Lumpur based school for refugees that is funded by donations and dedicated to providing educational opportunities to Malaysian based refugees.

The Pandawas Academy is solely focused on providing quality education to refugee children who have had few privileges in life but whose academic abilities have been proven once given an opportunity to study.

"We are very excited about this project and for the long term benefits it will provide – and of course for supporting the Pandawas Academy. Although the term *'sustainability'* is better understood in relation to the environment it is a different scenario with respect to national cultures. Through the **Melbourne Malaysia Milan** project our objective is to generate a greater awareness, understanding, appreciation and acknowledgement of the three respective cultures."

"When we have a deeper understanding of our past, the differences and our shared similarities, we are better able to understand the collective beliefs and values we share and in doing so, have a more informed view of the world and a platform to make better decisions about the future", said Joe Perri.

*If anyone would like to be a part of the Melbourne Malaysian Milan work group, please contact AMBC Victoria Sharon Anderson by email on secretariat@ambcvic.org.au*

**ENDS**

Notes to the editor:  About Pandawas Academy

The Pandawas Academy was founded by Robert Levitt, an American investment adviser, and Malaysians Jeanette Chan, Francis Tay and Jessica Wee.  The non religious / non-profit organization is funded solely by donations and provides quality education to refugee children who have had few privileges in life but whose academic abilities have been proven once given an opportunity to study.

As refugees, normally awaiting relocation to another country, the children are not able to study in Malaysian public schools and a further issue is the relocation process can take as long as 6 years or more.

Pandawas Academy is committed to using advanced teaching methods to cultivate the students' ability to think independently, innovate and solve problems which goes beyond the traditional techniques where students are routinely tested on their ability to recall information and demonstrate mastery of a narrow set of skills.

In today's workplace, the top skills needed are teamwork, problem-solving, and interpersonal skills.  The Pandawas Academy is focused on developing these skills as the educators believe their students are capable of writing symphonies or building robots and airplanes.

*Further information of the Pandawas Academy please visit*
*https://www.facebook.com/pandawasacademy/info?tab=page_info*