



KEMENTERIAN SUMBER ASLI, ALAM SEKITAR  
DAN PERUBAHAN IKLIM

# MEDIA STATEMENT

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## THE REPATRIATION OF GIANT PANDA CUBS TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC RAKYAT CHINA

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Today, I had the distinct honour of attending the farewell ceremony of the Giant Panda cubs, Yi Yi and Sheng Yi, as they begin their journey back to the People's Republic of China (PRC), held at the Giant Panda Conservation Center (PKGP), National Zoo.

The ceremony was also attended by HE Ouyang Yujing, Ambassador of the PRC to Malaysia; and Dato' Sr. Zaharin bin Md. Arif, President of the Malaysian Zoological Society (MZS).

The repatriation of Yi Yi and Sheng Yi was carried out in compliance with the International Cooperative Agreement on Giant Panda Conservation, signed between both parties in 2012, in conjunction with the 40th anniversary celebration of diplomatic relations between Malaysia and the PRC.

Yi Yi who is now 5 years old was initially scheduled to be sent back home in 2020, but the repatriation had to be postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic. Considering that Sheng Yi has also reached 24 months of age last May, China Wildlife Conservation Association (CWCA) has agreed to Malaysia's proposal to send the third Giant Panda cub back together with Yi Yi.

The return of these Giant Panda cubs also serves the purpose of Giant Panda conservation, enabling it to socialize and breed with other Giant Pandas.

Yi Yi; meaning friendship, and Sheng Yi; meaning peace and friendship, have been chosen as the names for the two Giant Panda cubs born to the loving pair Fu Wa and Feng Yi, who arrived in Malaysia on May 21, 2014. These meaningful names reflect the significance of friendship and peace, and symbolize the strong bond between Malaysia and the PRC.

A joint assessment will be conducted with the CWCA this year to evaluate the achievements of the International Cooperative Agreement on Giant Panda Conservation in aspects such as health status, breeding, education and public awareness, research and bilateral relations.

I hope that these Giant Pandas, who are special envoys from the PRC, can further promote understanding and close cooperation between the two countries.

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