April 15, 2003, The Sun

KL may lose millions in tourism income due to Sars: report

KUALA LUMPUR - Malaysia may lose around 200 million ringgit (S$92 million) a month in tourism revenues because of tough new visa rules affecting visitors from countries and regions hit by a deadly mystery disease, a report said today.

Malaysia's tourism industry is losing about 100,000 visitors a month from China and Hong Kong, which have been badly hit by severe acute respiratory syndrome, or Sars, the Sun newspaper reported today.

In February, before the Sars outbreak, tourist arrivals from China numbered 65,290, according to the Malaysian Tourism Promotion Board Web site.

In a bid to prevent the disease from spreading, the government last week temporarily banned tourists from China and revoked visa-free travel for tourists from Hong Kong, Canada and Vietnam.

Any visitors from affected areas will undergo "very, very stringent" health screening upon entry, Deputy Tourism Minister Ng Yen Yen was quoted as saying.

The outbreak of Sars has crippled Asia's vital tourism industry, with many people canceling plans to travel in the region and airlines reducing flights.
Appendix II

Visa Requirements to enter Malaysia

A ) Nationals of these countries do not require visa to enter Malaysia for all purpose of visits.

- Liechtenstein, Netherlands, Switzerland, St. Marino, Singapore, Brunei
- All COMMONWEALTH countries except India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nigeria

B ) Nationals of this country do not require visa for social visits and study.
United State of American ( USA )

C ) National of these countries do not require visa to enter Malaysia for the purpose of social visits for not more than three (3) months. For other purposes or social visits for a duration of stay exceeding three (3) months, visa is required.

- Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Bosnia Herz, Brazil, Chile, Croatia
- Cuba, Czech Rep, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Italy
- Japan, Jordan, Kirgystan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Luxemborg, Norway, Oman, Peru, Poland
- Qatar, Romania, Saudia Arabia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Slovakia, Tunisia, Turkey
- Turkesmenistan, U.A.E, Uruguay, Yemen

D ) Nationals of these countries do not require visa to enter Malaysia for the purpose of social visits for not more than one (1) month. For other purposes or social visits for a duration of stay exceeding one (1) month, visa is required.

- Hong Kong ( S.A.R ), Macau ( S.A.R ), British National Overseas ( BNO ), North Korea, Vietnam
- All ASEAN countries except Myanmar
- Others countries that are not listed in any of the other categories

E ) Nationals of this country do not require visa to enter Malaysia for the purpose of social visits for not more than fifteen (15) days. For other purposes or social visits for a duration of stay exceeding fifteen (15) days, visa is required.

- Iran

F ) Nationals of these countries do not require visa to enter Malaysia for the purpose of social visits for not more than fourteen (14) days. For other purposes or social visits for a duration of stay exceeding fourteen (14) days, visa is required.

- Iraq, Libya, Syria, Macao ( Travel Permit ), Portugal ( Alien Passport )
G) Nationals of these countries require visa for any purpose of visit.
   - Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan
   - Taiwan, Myanmar, Nepal, Bhutan, PR China
   - Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Rep, Congo Rep
   - Congo Democratic Rep, Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia
   - Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Niger, Nigeria, Liberia, Mali, Mozambique
   - All Holders of Cert. Of Identity
   - All Holder of LAISSE PASSER
   - All Holder of TITRE DE VOYAGE

H) Nationals of these countries require special approval from the Ministry of Home Affairs to enter Malaysia.
   - Israel, Yugoslavia, Monte Negro