



**MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY
MALAYSIA**

1. Over this week, I had the pleasure of leading the Malaysian delegation to the China International Import Expo (CIIE) 2018, the first of its kind. Our agencies, MATRADE is leveraging on this platform by coordinating the participation of 80 Malaysian companies at the event to encourage imports by the Chinese.
2. Malaysia can take advantage of this opportunity to make our local-made products to be even better received in the Chinese market. I'm not only talking about popular traditional products like durians, white coffee and bird nests but also high value added manufactured goods such as electronic equipments.
3. During this event, MATRADE will be championing the Malaysian high value sectors particularly in high intelligence equipments and services. Potential buyers from 81 countries are expected to meet Malaysian companies during the expo. I trust that this expo will further increase our annual export figures to China which is currently valued at RM126.15 billion.
4. Malaysian companies are not only promoting at Shanghai, but also in a parallel event at Guangzhou. This exhibition caters specifically for the Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) segment unlike its Shanghai counterpart. 24 companies are there to promote the export of Malaysia products such as food and beverages, health and wellness products and household items to China and beyond. This just shows how diverse are the Malaysia's made products and there's multiple fronts in which can expand our product markets.
5. China is our largest trading partner since 2009. Hence it's only natural for us to want to ramp up efforts in facilitating Malaysian companies' access to the market and take advantage of the Belt and Road Initiatives. In the Hongqiao International Trade Forum that I've attended, our Chinese counterparts reiterated their desire to create this new trade pattern that emphasised openness to create a win-win situation. By encouraging more two-way trade, I'm confident that both countries will stand to benefit massively.
6. In the following few days, I'll participate in scheduled visits to various leading Chinese firms such as Huawei and HSBC, and receive courtesy calls by some of the provincial leaders. I will endeavour to promote Malaysia as a competitive investment destination and attract more FDIs.

7. In addition, I will take a short working visit to Japan regarding the Samurai Bond from the Japanese government in-conjunction with the official visit of the Prime Minister Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad. Malaysia has proposed for Japan to offer the bond in Ringgit denomination to mitigate the currency fluctuations. I've made good acquaintance with my Japanese counterparts HE Hiroshege Seko during the previous trade mission which brought in a lot of investments to Malaysia, hence the trip to Tokyo is to further deepen the bond between both countries. I believe that these trips to China and Japan will bring more prospects to Malaysia as a whole, without forgetting the people of Sabah and Sarawak.

DARELL LEIKING

5 November 2018

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