

MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY

MEDIA RELEASE

TRADE AND INVESTMENT MISSION TO JAPAN AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA 14 – 21 OCTOBER 2018

YB Datuk Darell Leiking, Minister of International Trade and Industry will be undertaking a Trade and Investment Mission (TIM) to Japan from 14 to 17 October 2018 and the Republic of Korea (ROK) from 18 to 21 October 2018. The Mission comprises officers from the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA), Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE), State Governments such as Penang, Melaka and Terengganu, as well as 76 representatives from Malaysian companies.

This Mission is an important annual engagement for the Government to continue enhancing bilateral economic and trade relations between Malaysia and Japan as well as ROK. During the Mission, YB Minister will have bilateral meeting with his counterpart in Tokyo and attend business seminars in Tokyo, Osaka and Seoul to promote business and investment opportunities in Malaysia. The programme will also include one-to-one business meetings and Business Matching sessions with selected captains of industry as well as small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

The meetings and business matching sessions with the Japanese and Korean companies will provide a great opportunity for Malaysia to learn of new industrial and technology developments and explore further collaboration with both nations, particularly in high potential sectors such as automotive, artificial intelligence, robotics, aerospace, petrochemical, medical devices, renewable energy and Halal industry. In addition, YB Minister is scheduled to meet and engage with Malaysian students in Seoul. YB Minister and delegation will also be visiting several companies and research centres such as Nissan Motor Corporation and Shimadzu Corporation in Japan and Samsung D'Light in ROK.

In 2017, Japan was Malaysia's 4th largest overall global trading partner and 2nd largest after China for East Asia region while Malaysia was Japan's 11th largest trading partner. The total trade between both countries was recorded at RM139.2 billion (USD32.4 billion) in 2017 with Malaysia's exports to Japan amounted to RM75.6 billion (USD17.6 billion) and imports value totalled at RM63.6 billion (USD14.8 billion).

In terms of investments, Japan is the largest foreign investor in the manufacturing sector for implemented projects. As of June 2018, a total of 2,642 manufacturing projects were implemented with total investments of RM82.9 billion (USD26.0 billion) and these investments have created 340,698 job opportunities. The majority of these investments

are in electronics and electrical products, chemicals and chemical products, non-metallic mineral products and transport equipment.

Meanwhile, ROK was Malaysia's 8th largest trading partner, 10th largest export destination and 7th largest source of imports in 2017. In 2017, the total trade between both countries was recorded at RM67.7 billion (USD15.8 billion). The total exports to ROK amounted to RM28.6 billion (USD6.7 billion) while imports value was at RM39.1 billion (USD9.1 billion).

In terms of investment, ROK was Malaysia's 5th largest foreign investor in the manufacturing sector for implemented projects. As of June 2018, a total of 371 manufacturing projects were implemented with total investment worth RM25.7 billion (USD7.8 billion) and have generated 52,103 job opportunities. Most of these investments were in electrical and electronics, petroleum products, basic metal products, non-metallic mineral products and chemical and chemical products.

Ministry of International Trade and Industry Malaysia 14 October, 2018

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About MITI:

MITI is the key driver in making Malaysia the preferred destination for quality investments and enhancing the nation's rising status as a globally competitive trading nation. Its objectives and roles are oriented towards ensuring Malaysia's rapid economic development and help achieve the country's stated goal of becoming a developed nation by 2020.

<u>Media inquiries</u>

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