

MEDIA STATEMENT

NEW IN-ROADS FOR MALAYSIA-CHINA COOPERATION IN SMART MANUFACTURING

*G2G, B2B trade relationships forged through Malaysia-China Smart Manufacturing
Roundtable, hosted by Sabah*

KOTA KINABALU, 14 JUNE 2019 - Malaysia and People's Republic of China Industry Ministers met this week at the Malaysia-China Manufacturing Roundtable Meeting, held in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia, on the 14th June 2019.

Minister of International Trade and Industry, (MITI) YB. Datuk Darell Leiking and China's Minister of Industry and Information Technology, His Excellency Mr. Miao Wei, co-chaired the business roundtable between major Malaysian and Chinese brands and manufacturers, in the roundtable themed "Win-Win Cooperation for Manufacturing Innovative Development", specially organized to bridge business collaboration in smart manufacturing among businesses from the two countries.

Prior to the Roundtable, the Chinese delegation was given a briefing by the various agencies of the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) Sabah on potential investment opportunities in the state, followed by a visit to Kota Kinabalu Industrial Park (KKIP) and Sabah Energy.

The delegation, together with the MITI Minister also had a courtesy call on the Chief Minister of Sabah, Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Mohd. Shafie Haji Apdal on 13 June 2019.

The Manufacturing Roundtable featured presentations by MITI on the National Policy on Industry 4.0 (Industry4WRD), followed by a policy presentation on Smart Manufacturing by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of the People's Republic of China.

The Roundtable continued with discussions on collaborations in Smart Manufacturing between companies from Malaysia and China. Major industry players from key sectors relevant to smart manufacturing from both countries such as Huawei Malaysia, Beidou Communication Group, First Solar, Proton, Perodua, Hikvision, Hisense, Jinko and many more attended the session.

"The Roundtable is a good platform to match businesses between Malaysia and China to share ideas, knowledge and expertise on smart manufacturing technology and global practices", said Datuk Darell Leiking.

Darell further explained that the event is another important milestone for trade relations between the two countries, particularly in new technology areas within the automotive, electronics, telecommunications and mobility sectors that are in line with Industry 4.0.

“I believe that the new business relationships forged here today will create new in-roads and opportunities for Malaysians to participate in the global value chain. It is also significant that an engagement of this magnitude is held in Sabah, and I hope the Roundtable will allow more opportunities to reach this part of the region in the near future”, he added.

China has been Malaysia’s largest trading partner for ten consecutive years, with total trade of RM313.8 billion recorded in 2018. Malaysia’s exports to China expanded 10.3 percent last year to RM138.88 billion, with increasing exports in chemical, E&E, LNG, transport and processed food products.

In 2018, in terms of FDI, the PRC accounted for the highest approved amount of investments valued at RM19.7 billion for 40 projects.

The Roundtable also saw the signing of several Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs), between government agencies and technology companies from both countries.

The Malaysia Automotive, Robotics and IoT Institute (MARii) and the Center for International Economic and Technological Cooperation (CIETC) signed an MoU to collaborate on latest industry policies, technological breakthroughs and deepening business cooperation in the fields of automotive, industrial robotics and the Internet-of-Things (IOT) and also to carry out joint research and project implementation through the establishment of the “China-Malaysia Automotive Cooperation Innovation Center”, to enhance international competitiveness of related fields for both countries.

SIRIM and Huawei Technologies (Malaysia) formalised a partnership to strengthen co-operation in areas related to Industry 4.0 and Smart Manufacturing that will allow both parties to collaborate in technical expertise and support on information and communication technologies (ICT) solutions; joint partnership in planning and developing enterprise or Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) connectivity for infrastructure; advisory and cooperation on talent development; and best practises and deployment guideline for standards.

Three other collaborations were signed during the event, between;

- MoU signing between K.T.I Sdn Bhd and Sany Construction Industry Development (M) Sdn Bhd

- MoA between PP Telecommunication Sdn Bhd and China Wuhan FiberHome Telecommunication Technologies Co., Ltd
- MoU NHY Borneo and SANY (China)

Ministry of International Trade & Industry

14 June, 2019

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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.

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