



MINISTRY OF
INVESTMENT, TRADE AND INDUSTRY



MALAYSIA AND THE UAE COMMITTED TO CONCLUDE THE COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (CEPA)

Malaysia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) today reaffirmed their commitment to sign the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) by this year. The commitment was made during a bilateral meeting between YB Tengku Datuk Seri Utama Zafrul Aziz, Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry (MITI) and his counterpart, His Excellency Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of State for Foreign Trade of the UAE, who was on a one-day working visit to Malaysia. The CEPA's first round of negotiations commenced in October 2023.

As Malaysia's first FTA with a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), this agreement is expected to pave the way for deeper economic collaboration, fostering a conducive environment for increased trade and investment flows, not just between the two nations but between ASEAN and the GCC region in general.

Tengku Zafrul said, "The substantive progress on CEPA negotiations reflects our commitment to creating a comprehensive framework that mutually benefits Malaysia and the UAE. As Malaysia's second largest trading partner in West Asia region, Malaysia is optimistic that the signing of the CEPA will further elevate our economic linkages with the UAE to the next level."

During the bilateral meeting, in addition to the CEPA, both Ministers had the opportunity to discuss, among others, potential trade and investment cooperation between the UAE and Malaysia, especially in the areas of semiconductor and renewable energy. These sectors are among the priority areas identified by both countries for collaboration towards both nations' economic growth and technological advancement.

Dr. Thani was accompanied by esteemed members of a delegation comprising nine prominent UAE business leaders, representing sectors such as green energy, logistics, retail and airline. The delegation aims to explore new business opportunities, forge strategic partnerships, and reinforce existing collaborations with their Malaysian partners towards a shared aspiration of sustainable economic growth for both countries.

Dr. Thani also paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister of Malaysia, YAB Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim. This high-level engagement further solidified the strategic partnership between Malaysia and the UAE, opening new avenues for cooperation and mutual progress. Dr. Thani's visit underscored the UAE's commitment to fostering strong international partnerships and advancing sustainable economic development.

The UAE and Malaysia have forged solid bilateral trade and economic ties. For the first quarter of 2024, bilateral trade recorded a significant increase of 43.4% reaching RM11.70 billion. On the investment front, as of 2023, 34 manufacturing projects with Emirati participation worth RM1.49 billion (USD0.39 billion) were implemented. These projects created a total of 2,039 employment opportunities in Malaysia.

MINISTRY OF INVESTMENT, TRADE AND INDUSTRY (MITI)

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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.

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