



MEDIA RELEASE

FIRST ANNUAL MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE: MITI ENHANCES COLLABORATION WITH THE MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, SINGAPORE TO ADVANCE BILATERAL TRADE & INVESTMENT TIES

YB Senator Tengku Datuk Seri Utama Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz, Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry, Malaysia (MITI) and H.E. Gan Kim Yong, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore (MTI) co-chaired the inaugural Annual Ministerial Dialogue (1st AMD) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 14 June 2023.

Singapore and Malaysia share a warm relationship where both economies are intricately connected, along with strong people-to-people ties. Both countries are each other's second-largest trading partners, with bilateral trade reaching a significant USD 83.53 billion in 2022, reflecting a notable growth of 37.6% compared to USD 64.55 billion in 2021. Moreover, Singapore stands out as one of Malaysia's primary sources of foreign direct investment, contributing 8.3% to Malaysia's total FDI in 2022.

Recognising the strength and potential in Malaysia-Singapore economic relations, both Ministers agreed on having a regular platform, the **Annual Ministerial Dialogue**, to boost bilateral trade and investments between the two countries, as well as strengthen ties between the officials from both Ministries.

During the inaugural AMD, the Ministers reviewed the progress of the two Frameworks on Cooperation in the Digital Economy and Green Economy, signed between the two governments during YAB Malaysia Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim's visit to Singapore on 30th January 2023.

Progress on Digital Economy and Green Economy Cooperation

Under the Framework on Cooperation in the Digital Economy, the Ministers announced a **new taskforce to explore the promotion of cross-border business trade**, leveraging the **MATRADE Digital Trade Platform** that was launched by YB Minister of MITI on 13 June 2023, and **Singapore's Business sans Borders initiative**. The taskforce will involve the MITI and the Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE), together with MTI, Infocomm Media Development Authority of Singapore (IMDA), and the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS).

Under the Framework on Cooperation in the Green Economy, the Ministers welcomed the collaborative effort between MATRADE and Enterprise Singapore (EnterpriseSG) in a **Capacity Development Programme for Exporters**, aimed at **supporting exporters' sustainability transition**. As part of the programme, there will be a series of engagements between Singapore and Malaysia enterprises to share experiences and solutions in sustainability. The first session will focus on sustainability reporting frameworks and green financing, scheduled to be launched in July 2023.

In addition, Singapore and Malaysia have held **dialogues between policymakers on digital trade and the green economy**, to increase understanding and explore opportunities for collaboration. On digital trade, both Ministries acknowledged that good regulatory and governance frameworks play a significant role in facilitating business opportunities presented by digitalisation, as both countries embrace the next generation of international trade arrangements and rules. MITI and MTI held a **dialogue on digital trade** on 29 May 2023, which was attended by 17 key Malaysian Ministries and Agencies. On the green economy, a dialogue was held between Singapore's Ministry of Transport (MOT) and Malaysia's MITI in April 2023 to share about each other's national plans for promoting the **adoption of Electric Vehicles (EVs)**, and a session in June 2023 between MTI and NanoMalaysia (an agency under Malaysia's Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation) to understand both countries' plans and approaches on **developing the hydrogen economy**. Both MTI and MITI will also continue discussions on potential collaborations in the carbon credits industry, and standards for renewable energy technology.

Both Ministers reaffirmed the importance of advancing cooperation in multilateral and plurilateral fora, and keeping trade and supply chains open, amidst volatility in the global economic environment. Both Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthen bilateral ties and agreed to continue collaborating closely to further deepen Malaysia and Singapore's bilateral economic relationship, for the mutual benefit of both countries' economies, businesses and citizens.

MINISTRY OF INVESTMENT, TRADE & 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.

Media enquiries:

Strategic Communications Unit, MITI

Tel : +603 62000083

Fax : + 603 62064293

Email: alluks@miti.gov.my