



MINISTRY OF
INVESTMENT, TRADE AND INDUSTRY

MEDIA RELEASE

MALAYSIA AND THE UAE STRENGTHEN COMMITMENT TO ADVANCING INVESTMENT COOPERATION IN THE DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE SECTOR

The Ministry of Investment, Trade, and Industry (MITI) of Malaysia, in collaboration with the Ministry of Investment of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), has strengthened their commitment to advancing investment cooperation in the digital infrastructure sector. Both parties have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) today, marking a strategic partnership on the development of data centres in Malaysia, with potential projects anticipated to achieve a total capacity of 500 megawatts.

The MoU was signed by YB Tengku Datuk Seri Utama Zafrul Aziz, Minister of Investment, Trade, and Industry for Malaysia, and His Excellency Mohamed Hassan Alsuwaidi, Minister of Investment for the UAE. It represents a strong commitment towards robust collaboration on the exchange of knowledge and expertise in the digital infrastructure sector between Malaysia and the UAE, which is also aimed at fostering greater bilateral economic and investment relationships between the public and private sectors of both countries.

Malaysia has emerged as a preferred destination for data centres in the Southeast Asia region, thanks to its robust digital and physical infrastructure, rule of law, as well as compelling government-backed measures and initiatives on data centre investment. The increasing demand from regional SMEs will provide the impetus for Malaysia's growing status as a significant regional player in digital economy.

Beyond data centre development, the MoU also illustrates Malaysia's commitment to advancing artificial intelligence (AI), in alignment with the New Industrial Master Plan (NIMP) 2030, whose aims include enhancing the capacity of industries, SMEs and start-ups in AI and developing AI solution providers.

YB Datuk Seri Utama Tengku Zafrul Aziz, Minister of Investment, Trade, and Industry, Malaysia, said, "Malaysia's digital infrastructure collaboration with the UAE, with a focus on data centres, will certainly help strengthen our position as a preferred destination for digital investments. By being a regional data centre hub, Malaysia is well-positioned to capture a significant portion of ASEAN's digital economy, forecast to reach USD1 trillion by 2030. MITI and its agencies are determined to speed up the implementation of all committed investments so that investors, businesses and our

people can quickly reap the benefits of a more robust, thriving digital economy within Malaysia and ASEAN."

His Excellency Mohamed Hassan Alsuwaidi, Minister of Investment, the UAE, commented, "This collaboration not only enhances the existing bilateral ties between our nations but also seeks to harness Malaysia's extensive potential as a top choice for data centre locations in the Asia-Pacific region. Being an emerging data hub in Southeast Asia, the arrangement aims to reinforce the nation's digital infrastructure and accelerate the expansion of its internet economy, aligning with shared priorities and interests."

The MoU stands as a testament to the strong trade relations between Malaysia and the UAE, with significant growth in non-oil trade volume. Currently, the UAE is Malaysia's second-largest trading partner in the Middle East, and Malaysia is a key player in UAE's exports and re-exports in the ASEAN region.

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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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