



**SENIOR MINISTER
MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY**

MEDIA RELEASE

**MALAYSIA THE MOST ATTRACTIVE INVESTMENT DESTINATION FOR
FOREIGN INVESTORS AMONGST EMERGING SOUTHEAST ASIA COUNTRIES**

Building on the success of attracting more than RM220 billion approved investments in 2021 for manufacturing and services sectors under the purview of MIDA, Malaysia outpaced its Emerging Southeast Asia peers and topped as the most attractive country in the region for foreign investments in the 2022 Milken Institute Global Opportunity Index (GIO) released yesterday.

This is a further testament to the Government's resolve, commitment and proactiveness in developing sound policies and efficiently and constantly driving domestic reforms which has ultimately elevated Malaysia's position as a preferred investment destination, no doubt signifying the strong confidence of foreign investors in our agile business ecosystem and vibrant economy.

According to the report, "The best-performing country among the region's largest economies is Malaysia. It uniformly scores above the average rating for EMDE countries in all 14 of the subcategories." The index also reported that Malaysia secured its top spot due to its strong performance across all categories measured, namely, having a strong economic performance, offering highly qualified workforce and being firmly integrated with the global economy.

This clearly underscores the success of MITI's massive efforts in implementing policies that ensure the readiness of talent and the protection as well as creation of jobs for the economy. Aggressively seeking out opportunities particularly in new growth areas, driving greater collaborations with the industries on upskilling and reskilling initiatives and drawing more strategic investments into the country will remain MITI's focus in securing Malaysia's position as the most attractive foreign investment destination.



It is indeed noteworthy that the report draws attention to Malaysia having taken steps to relax restrictions and enact policies in capitalising on its trade developments, thus helping us claim first-place ranking in this year's Index. These measures serve as an impetus to lead the nation to increased innovation, job creation, and global competitiveness.

This has been echoed with our commitment in strengthening institutional frameworks and deepening regional integration through mega Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) such as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement and the soon-to-be ratified Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific (CPTPP).

MITI will continue efforts to drive Malaysia's robust and sustainable growth underpinned by an open economy, with business-friendly and pragmatic policies that foster an attractive and conducive investment climate.

Link to Report:

<https://milkeninstitute.org/sites/default/files/2022-01/global%20opp%20indexFINAL.pdf>

Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali
Senior Minister
Minister of International Trade and Industry
28 January 2022