

KEYNOTE SPEECH

BY
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MINISTER OF INVESTMENT TRADE AND INDUSTRY

AT THE
ARAB MALAYSIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
15th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

17 SEPTEMBER 2025

YBhg. Dato' Ahmad Shukri Bin Tajuddin,
President of the Arab Malaysian Chamber of Commerce (AMCC);

H.E. Dr. Adel Mohammad Ali Ba Hamid,
Dean of the Republic of Yemen;

Your Excellencies;
AMCC's Board of Directors;
Tan Sri-Tan Sri, Datuk-Dato', Datin-Datin;
Members of the media;
Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Assalamu Alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh, and a very good evening.

Let me begin by extending my sincere gratitude to the organisers of today's event, Arab Malaysian Chamber of Commerce (AMCC) for the kind invitation to the 15th Annual General Meeting. I am truly honoured to be in the company of many distinguished and prominent figures especially the Ambassadors, and Diplomat from the Arab countries, esteemed Board and Members of AMCC and business leaders.

Ladies and gentlemen,

2. The relationship between Malaysia and the Arab world is one steeped in centuries of rich history, cultural affinity, and religious ties. Since the days of the early maritime trade routes, Arab merchants and scholars have left a lasting legacy in our region — from religion and language to commerce and diplomacy.

Today, this long-standing friendship continues to flourish, not only through cultural and educational exchanges but also through growing partnerships in trade, investment, and innovation..

Ladies and gentlemen,

3. In the spirit of this shared history, Malaysia is committed to forging deeper economic cooperation with Arab countries, particularly in sectors aligned with our shared strategic interests:

- Halal industry: Malaysia is ready to partner with Arab countries in strengthening the global halal value chain, from certification to supply and logistics.
- Energy transition: As global priorities shift towards sustainability, we welcome collaboration in renewable energy, green technology, and carbon market development.
- Digital economy and innovation: Malaysia offers a thriving tech ecosystem and encourages partnerships in fintech, e-commerce, and digital infrastructure.
- Food security and agriculture: Joint ventures in food production, logistics, and agricultural innovation can ensure shared resilience for our nations..

4. Malaysia continues to offer a stable, open, and business-friendly environment, with:

- Strategic geographic location at the heart of ASEAN
- A multilingual and skilled workforce
- Comprehensive infrastructure
- Strong legal and IP protections
- A government fully committed to pro-business policies

5. Indeed, as a matter of fact, economic and trade matters gained prominence in Malaysia's policy towards the Middle East. Over the years, this region became not only a source of foreign direct investments (FDIs), but also a primary market for Malaysian products and businesses. For instance, many products of various levels from Proton cars to commodities, were exported to the Middle East; whilst the halal industry potential was explored and initiated.

6. As the Middle East has been one of the key trading partners for Malaysia, the Ministry of Investment Trade and Industry (MITI) through our agency, the Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) shall engage in a continuous dialogue with partners and counterparts from your respective countries, in order to enhance our trade relations

7. We are also proud of our efforts in ease of doing business, and agencies such as MIDA and Invest Malaysia stand ready to facilitate all your investment needs.

8. While trade and investment numbers matter, it is the trust between our people that forms the bedrock of long-term partnerships. I am pleased to see today's event not just as a forum for business deals, but as a platform for deeper understanding — for friendships, alliances, and mutual respect to flourish.

9. I would like to reiterate Malaysia's strong commitment to our Arab partners. We look forward to strengthening our ties not only in trade and investment but also in culture, education, technology, and beyond.

10. Let us build a future together — one defined not by distance, but by shared values, prosperity, and cooperation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

11. I would like to take this opportunity to commend the Board and Members of the Arab Malaysian Chamber of Commerce for their achievements and unwavering commitment over the past 16 years. Your dedication has played a significant role in strengthening the bonds between Malaysia and our partners from the Arab world.

12. On behalf of the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry (MITI), I extend my heartfelt congratulations to AMCC on reaching this meaningful milestone. We look forward to continued collaboration in advancing mutual economic interests and fostering stronger ties in the years ahead.

13. I wish all of you a pleasant and productive session at this 15th Annual General Meeting. May your discussions today lead to even greater achievements and partnerships.

Thank you.