

# Malaysia National Day

## Friendly and strategic partners

Dato' Ahmad Izlan Idris  
AMBASSADOR OF MALAYSIA



On the occasion of the National Day of Malaysia on Aug. 31, I have the great honor to convey my heartfelt greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, the Imperial family, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the government and the friendly people of Japan.

This year marks the 59th Anniversary of our National Day and it is also the 59th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Malaysia and Japan. Our relations have grown steadily and substantively over the years. Our close cooperation is manifested in various substan-



Prime Minister of Malaysia  
Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak

tive links particularly in trade, infrastructure development, science and technology, education, as well as people-to-people exchanges.

Last year, both our prime ministers agreed to elevate our bilateral relationship to a "strategic partnership." This is a manifestation of the commitment and determination by both leaders to further enhance the strong bilateral relationship, as well as recognizing the deepening of relations that we have been enjoying over the years of our relations.

### Economy

For many years, the focus of the relations between Malaysia and Japan has been concentrated on economic cooperation. Japan has contributed significantly to the economic and infrastructure development of Malaysia. Japan is among the first countries to invest heavily in Malaysia, bringing along technology and expertise that have helped spur the economic development of

Malaysia.

Japan has consistently ranked among Malaysia's biggest trading and investment partners. Last year, Japan was Malaysia's fourth-largest trading partner with total trade valued at \$32.78 billion. In this year's January to June period, Malaysia's total trade with Japan was \$14.3 billion.

Japan continues to be among Malaysia's largest sources of foreign direct investment in the manufacturing sector. From March 1980 to March 2016, a total of 3,375 manufacturing projects with Japanese interests, involving total investment of \$32.99 billion, have been approved in Malaysia.

The strong presence of Japanese companies in Malaysia shows that Malaysia remains an attractive investment destination. Close to 1,500 Japanese-related companies have

made Malaysia their investment destination of choice. Our strategic location, supported by the government's ongoing commitment to pursuing pro-business and pragmatic policies have continued to be the catalyst in making Malaysia an attractive destination for global businesses to set up their regional hubs.

Malaysia's commitment to be a major trading partner is also manifested in our commitment to ratify the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) free trade pact this year. The agreement will allow us to continue to be an integral part of the deepening economic integration that is taking place within the Asia Pacific region. It will also enable us to engage in a more concrete way with important trading partners such as Japan. It will also help us establish deep linkages in the regional and global supply chains. The TPP will expand our market access opportunities, enhance our competitive advantage and build investor confidence in our country.

### Look East Policy

Malaysia aspired to learn and emulate Japan's path to economic development, and more specifically, its business ethics and techniques. Hence the Look East Policy (LEP) became a significant symbol and is still recognized as the cornerstone of Malaysia-Japan relations.

Thirty-three years after the LEP was launched, more than 15,000 Malaysian citizens have benefited from the policy. Riding on the success of this policy, our two governments have decided to embark on the second wave of the policy. LEP 2.0 will build on the foundation of human capital development and take a more comprehensive approach to enhance our bilateral relationship. The second iteration of the policy will result in more technology



The Petronas Twin Towers are the most prominent landmark in Kuala Lumpur. TOURISM MALAYSIA

transfers, effective collaborations in R&D and successful business joint ventures.

### Human ties

Malaysia and Japan maintain strong people-to-people and cultural ties. People-to-people exchanges have been promoted through various programs such as the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths Programme and the Ship for Southeast Asian Youth programs. Various private sector-led youth and leadership program such as the International Association of Traffic and Safety Sciences Forum have also contributed tremendously in people-to-people contact between Malaysia and Japan.

Many Malaysian students have benefited from the provision of scholarships by the Japanese government. Likewise, the Malaysian government has continuously sent students to

study in Japan, something that has been part and parcel of the LEP. As for tourism, the trend has been encouraging. More Malaysians are visiting Japan and the number has increased by 22.4 percent in 2015. The number of Japanese who have joined the Malaysia My Second Home (MM2H) program have also been favorable. All of these factors have contributed further to the deepening of our relations.

### Malaysia and the U.N.

Malaysia is currently a non-permanent member of the U.N. Security Council (UNSC) for the 2015-2016 term and we have held the presidency of the council for the second time this month. During our presidency, we continue to highlight the peaceful resolution of conflict through moderation, the protection of civilians and the rule of law. As a member of the council, we seek to contrib-

ute constructively to the work of the council in the maintenance of international peace and security. We are also working closely with Japan, also a non-permanent member of the UNSC and a strategic partner in our efforts to promote regional stability and peaceful resolution of issues in the region.

### Conclusion

On this special occasion, I wish to reiterate that Malaysia will continue to work closely with the Japanese government, parliamentarians, industry players, academia and other institutions to further advance our friendship and cooperation for the mutual benefits of our countries. As we approach the 60th anniversary of our diplomatic relations next year, I look forward to more mutually beneficial cooperation and exciting times ahead in our bilateral relations.

## Marking nearly 40 years of prosperous economic ties

Mikio Sasaki  
PRESIDENT, THE JAPAN-MALAYSIA ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION

On behalf of the members of the Japan-Malaysia Economic Association (JAMECA), I would like to cordially offer my congratulations on the 59th anniversary of the Independence of Malaysia.



JAMECA was established in 1977 with the endorsement of both of our prime ministers. In the almost 40 years since then, JAMECA has sought to deepen understanding and develop friendly relations between our business communities and promote trade, investment, tourism and cultural exchange. To those ends, we have conducted joint conferences with our counterpart, the Malaysia-Japan Eco-

conomic Association (MAJECA), arranged meetings with high-ranking government officials from both countries and held investment seminars.

Malaysia's real gross domestic product grew by 5 percent in 2015 and, driven largely by demand at home, its economy is expected to grow another 4 to 4.5 percent this year.

More and more Japanese enterprises are moving into Malaysia, capturing some of the country's growth in manufacturing, food, retail and services. Hopes are high that Japanese involvement will also add momentum to high-speed railway and other infrastructure projects.

Our countries have begun making excellent progress on bilateral economic frameworks as well. Thanks to Malaysia's strong leadership as the 2015 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) chair, the ASEAN Economic Community was launched at the end of

the year. The Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade agreement was signed the following February.

In June, we held the 34th JAMECA-MAJECA Joint Conference, the main theme of which was to strengthen economic collaboration. The conference was productive and highly engaging and those attending included Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Dato' Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, special envoy of the prime minister in charge of East Asia Tiong King Sing, ambassadors from both our countries and many guest speakers.

By promoting such activities, I am confident that JAMECA will continue to help deepen mutual understanding and boost our respective economies, hopefully bringing our countries even closer together.

Let me conclude by once again congratulating Malaysia on its anniversary and wishing it a very productive and prosperous future.

**Congratulations**  
on the 59th Anniversary  
of  
the Independence of Malaysia



Minatomirai Grand Central Tower  
4-6-2, Minatomirai, Nishi-ku  
Yokohama 220-8765, Japan  
<http://www.chiyoda-corp.com/en>

**Congratulations**  
on the 59th Anniversary  
of the Independence  
of Malaysia

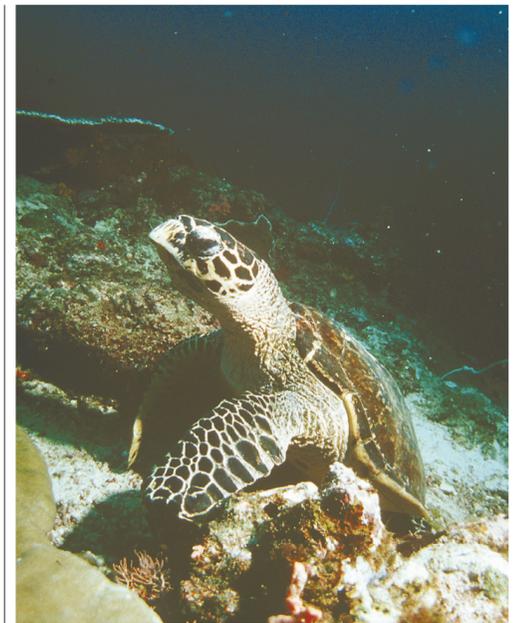


President: Mikio Sasaki  
c/o The Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
2-5-1 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0005, Japan

**Congratulations**  
on the 59th Anniversary  
of the Independence  
of Malaysia



Engineering for the Quality of Human Life  
**JGC CORPORATION**  
<http://www.jgc.com/>



The state of Terengganu is famous for giant leatherback sea turtles. TOURISM MALAYSIA

**Congratulations**  
on the 59th Anniversary  
of the Independence of Malaysia



**JAPAN MALAYSIA LNG CO., LTD.**  
NISSEKI YOKOHAMA BUILDING 17F,  
1-1-8 SAKURAGI-CHO,  
NAKA-KU, YOKOHAMA 231-0062  
TEL: (045) 683-1330 FAX: (045) 680-2265



**MISC LNG LIAISON OFFICE JAPAN**  
QUEEN'S TOWER A 9F, 2-3-1 MINATOMIRAI,  
NISHI-KU, YOKOHAMA, 220-6009  
TEL: (045) 680-2280 FAX: (045) 680-2284

**Congratulations**  
on the 59th Anniversary  
of the Independence  
of Malaysia



**Congratulations**  
on the 59th Anniversary  
of the Independence of  
Malaysia



**Polyplastics Asia Pacific Sdn. Bhd.**  
Head office  
50-5-13A, 5th FL, Wisma UOA Damansara, 50, Jalan Dungun,  
Damansara Heights, 50490 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Phone : +60-3-2773-6600 Fax : +60-3-2773-6700  
  
Kuantan Plant  
Lot 135, Gebeng Industrial Estate P.O. Box 33, 26080 Balok, Kuantan,  
Pahang, Malaysia  
Phone : +60-9-585-8200 Fax : +60-9-585-8300  
  
Polyplastics Co., Ltd. (Tokyo, Japan)

**Congratulations**  
on the 59th Anniversary  
of the Independence  
of Malaysia

