

Malaysia National Day Special

Mutual support in variety of areas

DATO' KENNEDY JAWAN
AMBASSADOR OF MALAYSIA



August 31 marks the 64th anniversary of Malaysian independence. In Malaysia, as with other nations affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, we will be celebrating our Independence Day on a moderate scale, aligned with current norms.

The pandemic has given us the time and space to reflect not only on Malaysia's progress over the past six decades since her independence in 1957, but also on the humbling reality of our progress with the pandemic and the value of independence as we go through circuit breaker measures put in place by the relevant authorities.

While this year's theme "Malaysia *Prihatin*" ("Malaysia Cares") was maintained from 2020, the Malaysian government also introduced the National Recovery Plan (NRP), which serves as a road map to control the pandemic while progressively reopening society and the economy. Specifically, the NRP aims to protect public health, ensure the sustainability of the health care system,

maintain vaccination efforts, reopen society and the economy, and keep Malaysia responsive in adapting to the evolving environment.

It was also on this day, 64 years ago, that Malaysia-Japan diplomatic relations were established. In spite of the challenges posed by the pandemic, our engagements have been active through our conduct of diplomacy, albeit under a new normal, with virtual engagements and programs in compliance with standard operating procedures. I am pleased to share that Malaysia's exports to Japan grew 18.2% and imports grew 26.3% between January and June this year; contributing to the overall expansion of Malaysia's total trade by 26%.

It is worth acknowledging that besides the continuous engagements in trade and investment, both Malaysia and Japan have supported each other through cooperation on recovering from COVID-19. Japan's recent contribution of approximately 1 million vaccine doses to Malaysia is one such endeavor. Malaysia will also celebrate the 40th anniversary of its Look East Policy in 2022 after

countless accomplishments in the fields of education, training and human resource development, among others.

This year, we welcomed the minister of youth and sports for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. It was a great time to be a part of history as Japan hosted the Games despite many obstacles. On this note, I am proud to share that the Malaysian contingent managed to obtain a silver medal in men's keirin cycling and a bronze in the men's badminton doubles. There were also Malaysian businesses who played a part in Japan's hosting of this historical event.

Further, it would also be befitting to congratulate the government of Japan on the success of hosting the Olympics and to extend my well wishes as Japan keeps its stride in hosting the ongoing Paralympic Games.

As I reminisce about my days in Japan when I was first here in 1992 and now as the ambassador, I take pride in being a part of Malaysia-Japan relations during the '90s and now. I would like to also thank our friends in



Former Minister of Youth and Sports Dato' Seri Reezal Merican Naina Merican (right) presents the Malaysian Olympic team's official jersey to Ambassador Dato' Kennedy Jawan at the Malaysian Embassy in Tokyo on Aug. 3. MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS

Japan, in both the public and private sectors, for their tremendous support as we continuously advance Malaysia-Japan relations. I am confident that our strong ties will continue to prosper for the mutual benefit of both our nations and hope that Malaysia will continue to be a choice destination on all fronts, be it trade, investment, education or other sectors.

To all Malaysians and friends of Malaysia, Happy National Day and *Selamat Hari Kebangsaan!*

Economic relations remain strong

TSUYOSHI NAGANO
PRESIDENT, JAPAN-MALAYSIA ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION



On behalf of the Japan-Malaysia Economic Association (JAMECA) and myself, I would like to express my sincerest congratulations to the government and people of Malaysia on the

occasion of the 64th anniversary of your country's independence.

JAMECA was established under the endorsement of both countries' prime ministers in 1977, for the purpose of enhancing mutual understanding and goodwill between Japan and Malaysia's economic circles and to promote trade, investment, economic cooperation, tourism and culture. Since our establishment, we have held annual joint conferences with our counterpart, the Malaysia-Japan Economic Association (MAJECA), organized events to

promote exchanges and submitted proposals to our governments. The joint conferences between JAMECA and MAJECA have been held alternately in Japan and Malaysia almost every year since 1977.

Unfortunately, countries all over the world, including Japan and Malaysia, are still struggling due to the influence of COVID-19. Nevertheless, I hope that business ties between Japan and Malaysia remain both long-standing and strong; therefore, the 38th Japan-Malaysia joint business conference in October must be held successfully this year.

JAMECA has been working with Malaysia to create new business opportunities in ways such as collaborating in the digital field, which is in line with the Malaysian government's digital transformation initiative. We will continuously work to further strengthen the economic relations between our two countries.

I would like to once again congratulate Malaysia on its National Day and I look forward to further strengthening our two nations' long-standing friendship and partnership.

This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.



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Congratulations on the Anniversary of the Independence of Malaysia

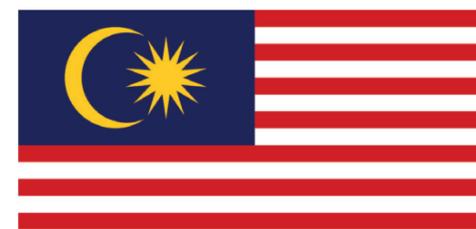
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Congratulations Malaysia on your National Day



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