

Malaysia-China Business Council (MCBC) **Bulletin**



MCBC Bulletin 1/2021: July

PREAMBLE

Malaysia-China Business Council (MCBC) has published its first publication in the form of an e-bulletin. This e-bulletin attempts to provide the latest news and an insight on Malaysia-China Business Council apace with a field of vision on trade and investment between Malaysia and China. This July's first edition of the bulletin mainly focuses and covers on the Q&A with the MCBC Chairman, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer's foreword, new chapter of MCBC's management and organizational structure, Chairman's message on the 47th Anniversary of the Establishment of Malaysia-China Diplomatic Relations, and National Day of the People's Republic of China, an overview of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) trade agreement, highlighting some of the memorable MCBC events from 2020 to 2021 and subcommittee update. MCBC is open to comments and suggestions from the viewers as we believe there is a potential for future advancement. For any inquiries, you may email us at mcbc@mcbc.com.my

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DATO SRI TIONG KING SING'S 365 DAYS OF ATTENTIVE DIRECTORSHIP



Chairman's Biography

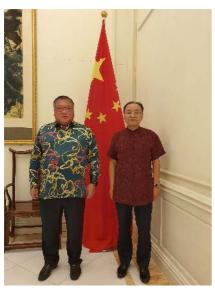
Place of birth : Sibu, Sarawak Current position:

- 1. Prime Minister's Special Envoy to the People's Republic of China with Ministerial Status
- 2. Member of Parliament Malaysia Bintulu
- 3. Chairman of Malaysia-China Business Council
- 4. President of Progressive Democratic Party (PDP)
- 5. Director of Bintulu Development Authority
- 6. President of the World Zhang Clan Association

Swift Insights with the Chairman

Editor: Would you be able to elaborate more about your role as the Prime Minister's Special Envoy to the People's Republic of China?

Chairman: My role as the Special Envoy is to strengthen Malaysia's position as a strategic trading partner of the People's Republic of China by collaborating further in the field of trade and investment. Therefore, I would have to pay special attention to issues in the implementation of joint venture development projects between Malaysia and the People's Republic of China. I would have to specifically look into procedures where it is both gratifying for both countries. I would have to increase the foreign investment from the People's Republic of China to Malaysia. In order for me to deliver such objectives I need to compromise and carry out joint programs of the ministries, departments, and agencies of the government related to trade and investment of the People's Republic of China. Furthermore, I do look into different approaches and strategies to collaborate with the private sector of Malaysia and the People's Republic of China in conducting programs related to trade and investment. All the above as listed are beneficial for both countries in many aspects but the most rewarding part is that the bond between both countries would grow stronger in time.



Dato Sri Tiong with the China Ambassador to Malaysia, H.E. Ouyang Yujing



Dato Sri Tiong meeting with the Minister of Higher Education Malaysia, Datuk Seri Dr. Noraini Ahmad

Editor: As you've been the Chairman of the board of directors for a year now, were there any events that comes to your mind which truly impressed you?

Chairman: In the past year I would say there were many events which left a mark on my memories, I was truly impressed with many events, however one that remains in my mind was some of the complex problems faced by small and big Chinese enterprises, they have dealt with quite a bit when it came to investing in Malaysia. For instance, the complications encountered by Wen'an Iron & Steel Co (Malaysia) and China Vanke Group was one such example of the many other projects that we had handled. They faced various obstacles while applying for the development approval, which has dramatically affected the confidence of many potential Chinese investors to come to Malaysia for development. Subsequently, after multiple endeavours by the Council to negotiate and coordinate with the relevant government organisations, the relevant bodies agreed to issue the license. Nonetheless, the Chinese investment was not in vain, and many employment opportunities were provided. It still remains fresh in my mind. I am looking forward to see what the future holds for our events.

Editor: It must have been a fruitful year under your guidance. Would you be able to share, alongside with your objectives in mind, what is the vision and mission for Malaysia-China Business Council and its objectives?

Chairman: Our vision is to strive to be a strategic leader in facilitating Economic and Trade cooperation development and fostering deeper ties between Malaysia and China. Our mission is to lead and facilitate the Economic and Trade Cooperation, we aim to strengthen Malaysia's position as a strategic trading partner of China. The objective of MCBC firstly is to coordinate and enhance Economic and Trade Cooperation between Malaysia and China. Furthermore, MCBC is in place as the strategic Economic and Trade advisor for the relevant stakeholders, and to provide consultation and information for Malaysian enterprises relating to business opportunities and market penetration into China and vice-versa.



Visit to Vanke Malaysia

Editor: Now that MCBC has a driven leader to guide the organization. What would be the prospect of MCBC in a few years from now?

Chairman: I visualize that MCBC will be the leading body in facilitating Malaysia-China trade and investment. We would love to promote and explore more on the trade and investment opportunities between Malaysia and China. MCBC hopes to enhance the bilateral relationship between Malaysia and China to ensure policies at the regional and national levels such as RCEP and single window are implemented. I am looking forward to guide the organization into such directions in order for us to see fulfilling results as mentioned. In addition, MCBC should act as a one-stop center of Malaysia-China Trade and Investment to attract more China investors.

Editor: In the midst of this pandemic, the Covid-19 outbreak that the World is facing, what would your advice be for businesses out there, what would be your words of strength for people out there in general?

Chairman: I believe that this pandemic has brought in many changes for us to adapt to, we have this new norm to live with. Although we might face challenges and difficult times now, I believe there will be a time for us move forward and adapt this new change into our businesses as well. We will overcome this pandemic together we will have to stay strong together.

From the desk of the Executive Director



Malaysia-China Business Council

The Malaysia-China Business Council (MCBC) serves to promote the common interests of the two great nations with a long-established history of trade and investment that dates as far back as the 3rd century BC. These interests go beyond trade and investment, extending into cultural, tourism and educational exchanges, and knowledge sharing in the fields of agriculture, life sciences, manufacturing and technology.

Under the stewardship of the MCBC Chairman, Dato Sri Tiong King Sing who is also the Prime Minister's Special Envoy to the People's Republic of China, MCBC has made significant progress in developing these bilateral exchanges, Covid-19 notwithstanding. The Chairman has established a clear roadmap to further the interests of both nations while encouraging our constituents to showing empathy to those in need in challenging times without due regard to their political, national, religious or ethnic affiliations.

The present-day Council has benefited enormously from a solid foundation built by our predecessors; many of whom have demonstrated a high level of professionalism and made sacrifices without seeking anything in return. The current Board, continues this tradition through determination to pursue an established cause without fear or favour.

Economics

The enormity in the scale of economic activities between Malaysia and China warrant a partnership of the highest importance between the two nations, be it, G to G or People to People.

According to Malaysia's Ministry of International Trade and Industry, the bilateral trade registered a record in export volumes with China continuing to be Malaysia's largest trading partner for the 12th consecutive year. The total trade between China and Malaysia exceeded US\$150 billion for 2019 and 2020. To this extent, the Council continues to promote such bilateral trade through helping local companies establish connectivity into China for a variety of produce including agriculture, aquaculture, automobile parts, food and beverages, fast moving consumer goods, electrical and electronic products, etc.

Malaysia's Trade with China (2019 - 2020)

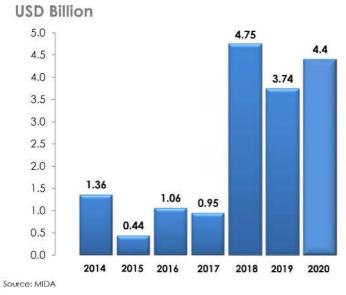
Year	Total Trade		Export		Import	
	RM (Bil)	USD (Bil)	RM (Bil)	USD (Bil)	RM (Bil)	USD (Bil)
2019	316.60	76.40	140.93	34.01	175.67	42.39
2020	329.77	78.59	158.60	37.77	171.18	40.81
Total	646.37	154.99	299.53	71.78	346.85	83.20

Source: Matrade

Figure 1.

China is the single largest Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) contributor to Malaysia in the manufacturing sector, with total FDI exceeding USD 14.9 billion for the period between 2016-2020. According to MIDA, a total of 243 manufacturing projects with Chinese investment have been approved over the same period creating more than 50,000 job opportunities.

Approved Investments from China in Manufacturing Sector is on the Rising Trend 在制造业领域获批的中国投资呈上升趋势



PRC was the largest FDI contributor for the last five years.

在过去五年 (2016-2020年), 中国是最大的外资来源地

Figure 2

Prior to the pandemic, China tourists' arrivals to Malaysia was about 3,100,000 in 2019 which top the list of all the arrivals. Total receipt from China tourists were estimated at RM19.3 billion. There were 545 flights arriving from China per week prior to the Covid 19 pandemic.

There are about 16,000 Chinese students in Malaysia while conversely, there are 10,000 Malaysian students in China. This sector will undoubtedly increase once the borders re-open.

Another economic endeavour of China in Malaysia worthy to mention is the East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) Project. It is one of the China biggest construction project in the world outside of China according to the seminar notes extracted from Malaysia-China Economics Relations.

An ongoing journey - the Next chapter

As part of the roadmap articulated by the Chairman and Board of Directors, fourteen new committees have been formed to broaden the reach and to deepen our level of engagement and focus. Each committee is tasked with a specific activity or focus area and is helmed by a member of the Board of Directors. Committee members are carefully chosen applying strict 'fit and proper' criteria while ensuring diverse interest groups within our local communities are fairly represented. Good corporate governance is assured with clear accountability and responsibility, with appropriate checks and balances in place. These committees are intended to be the pillars of engagement between the community and the leadership, enabling the Council to fairly and equitably reflect on the views and interests of the general public, and to implement appropriate actions accordingly.

As part of the ongoing outreach initiative, the Council initiated an official visit to the State of Sabah in March 2021. This visit was successfully concluded with a number of actions namely,

- the formation of a Joint Committee between the State Government and MCBC to attract Chinese investment into the State principally in the fields of Oil and Gas, Palm Oil and Education Tourism;
- setting up a feasibility study group to evaluate the prospects of setting up a Free Trade Zone in the State's Palm Oil Industrial Cluster (POIC) in Lahad Datu, a concept conceived by The Chairman.

Other Initiatives

Some of the other noteworthy initiatives adopted by the Council include:

- With assistance from MATRADE, The Council and JDMas had successfully concluded the first ever online collaboration JD 618 Shopping Festival Digital Expo & Promo 2021 to promote Malaysian products into China on 17 June 2021 which resulted in sales of RMB 15 million. With the success, this will now turn into a more frequent affair, another avenue for Malaysian companies to penetrate the Chinese market.
- The establishment of recent support by Chengdu University's Faculty of Chinese & Asean Arts and MCBC's Education Committee to offer scholarships to Malaysian students; the reception to the scheme has exceeded expectations.
- The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Education Malaysia Global Services (EMGS) and MCBC to promote Malaysia as a destination of choice for Chinese students; the signing of the MOU on 16th March 2021 was witnessed by the Minister of Higher Education, Datuk Seri Dr. Noraini Binti Ahmad and Prime Minister's Special Envoy to the People's Republic of China, Dato Sri Tiong King Sing.
- The Council has engaged with the SME Association including its Youth and Women's Wing. On a separate occasion, Datuk Michael Kang, The National President of SME Association also paid an official courtesy visit to MCBC. The focus of these interactions is to help facilitate market entry into China by Malaysian small to medium size enterprises.
- The Council participated with the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), the largest bank in the world by total assets, in an online matching platform for Chinese companies seeking prospective local partners in Malaysia, and vice versa. This is a unique platform that is free for business entities.
- On 4th December 2020, MCBC and the CAIQ Test Innovation Malaysia Service Center have entered into a MOU on Collaboration and Cooperation. The CAIQ TEST is the entry requirement set by the China Academy of Inspection and Quarantine (CAIQ) Test Group in Malaysia; the service centre will provide consultation, training, testing, inspection, filing and traceability services for Malaysia's agricultural products, marine products, small and medium-sized enterprises' food, health food, cosmetics and other high-quality exports to China. Both parties desire to pursue the objectives and goals of leveraging on the expertise and to facilitate linkages and discussions in the area of inspection and quarantine to drive exports from Malaysia to China.
- For the first time, the Council has nominated a representative to the Board of Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA), which comes under the purview of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI). This serves to reinforce the significance of the Council's contribution to the development and promotion of investment into Malaysia especially from China.

• The Council has also established a task-force for Aviation industry headed by a Chairman, Mr Kenny Chua who is serving Chairman of Sabah Air Aviation Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of State Government of Sabah. This is in anticipating of the growth of aviation industry between China and Malaysia.

Furthering the outreach initiative, the MCBC established a Greater Bay Area (GBA) Liaison Office outside Malaysia for the first time in 2020. The inaugural Hong Kong office was established with the support and full sponsorship of a fellow Malaysian, Mr. Steven Loke who is also our Chief Representative. In addition to furthering the interests of the Council, this office will provide much needed on-the-ground support for the citizens of both nations with the absence of air travel during the pandemic. The Liaison Office has hosted a visit by our Consul-General of Malaysia to Hong Kong, the Honourable Mr. Yap Wei Sin who welcomed the establishment of the Liaison Office to further promote bilateral business and non-business links between China and Malaysia.

The Future

The Council is resolute in building stronger ties between Malaysia and China. With the direction established by The Chairman and Board of Directors, we are confident of being in a position to bring a strong collaboration between our two great nations to a higher level, cementing the strong bond that has existed for hundreds of years.

Datuk Yong Teck Shing, J.P.

of Home of Annagas

Executive Director Malaysia-China Business Council

From the desk of the Chief Executive Officer



Malaysia-China Business Council

Since the formation of Malaysia-China Business Council's (MCBC) new management in June 2020, a new restructuring process has been carried out in order to create diversity in the team. Liaison Division, Public Relations Division and a Think Tank Division have been established as an enhanced mechanism to promote trade and commerce between Malaysia and China. The Council has also recently engaged with a Chief Economic Advisor and a Legal Advisor to get relevant constructive advice as experienced expertise from the industry on trade matters between the two countries.

To further facilitate Malaysia-China exchanges and cooperation in trade and education, the Council has been authorised by the Attorney General of Malaysia under Notaries Public Act 1959 to provide notary public service as the required documents. Meanwhile, the Council is in the midst of discussing with the respective government agencies regarding the possibility of becoming a supporting unit for the application of the APEC Business Travel Card. MCBC will continue to carry out its role and looks forward to bring more convenience to the business community in both countries.

MCBC is up to date of various roles played by the younger generation in our national development in this new era and they are also crucial to the growth of MCBC. Thus, MCBC has established internship collaborations with local universities to provide the younger ones with a deeper insight into the industries and allow them to explore various opportunities in trade and investment.

This year, MCBC began to implement a new structured management approach, this has enhanced the administrative governance of the Council in leading the activities and progress of its 14 sub-committees more effectively and to provide a well-designed blueprint for the organisation.



Furthermore, the Public Relations Division is working diligently to increase its social media coverage and dissemination of important information regarding Malaysia and China to the targeted communities through WeChat and Weibo official accounts, it enable users in China to gain access to information provided by MCBC. MCBC provides advice and assistance to Malaysian and Chinese business entities and we hope that everyone can fully utilise this platform.

In order to enhance the relationship and engagement with government agencies and industry players in Malaysia and China, MCBC has also expanded the Liaison Division and officially established Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area (GBA) Liaison Office in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. The nurturing relationship between the Liaison Office and stakeholders will assist MCBC to connect with reputable business entities and local authorities in the Greater Bay Area and further promote Malaysia's economic and trade ties with the GBA. The Council will continue to strengthen the liaison and administrative management of our office in the GBA to serve the communities of both sides in a better manner.

MCBC will collaborate further with all the relevant stakeholders in Malaysia and China and continue to strengthen our cooperation with the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE), Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC), Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA), Halal Development Corporation Berhad (HDC), Education Malaysia Global Services (EMGS) and related authorities to further enhance the bilateral trade and investment between Malaysia and China.

It is my honour to serve Malaysia-China Business Council. I will give my utmost effort alongside with my team to enhance the bilateral trade and economic relations between Malaysia and China.

Samuel Lee

Chief Executive Officer Malaysia-China Business Council

ABOUT MCBC

It has been a spawning year in the Malaysia-China Business Council (MCBC) under the Chairman's optimistic leadership. With a new direction under Dato Sri Tiong King Sing as the Chairman of MCBC effective on 22 May 2020, MCBC has restructured its organizational formation regarding the board of directors and management. MCBC is a non-profit organization officially registered in April 2012 and plays a vital role in providing business information and advisory services to Malaysian entrepreneurs in China and Chinese entrepreneurs in Malaysia. While helping to identify issues and problems that the business community faces, finding acceptable solutions for all parties, MCBC also helps to explore opportunities for our members and at the same time assists Chinese investors towards a better understanding on Malaysia's conducive business environment and investment potential.

Earlier this year in January, MCBC has relocated to Quill City Mall in Kuala Lumpur and has 12 supporting staff in MCBC's Malaysia Headquarters. Another MCBC Greater Bay Area Liaison Office is located in Hong Kong primarily to assist MCBC headquarters and strengthen the bilateral relationship between Malaysia and China.



MCBC Kuala Lumpur



MCBC Greater Bay Area Liaison Office, Hong Kong



- Choong Yuxun, Executive

Think Tank Division

Georgie Too, Data Research Analyst

- Zarith Sofea, Executive



Dato Sri Tiong King Sing Chairman

Datuk Pui Kian Onn Director

& Policy Committee

Datuk Tee Guan Pian Director

Chairman of Trade Promotion

Chairman of Visa & Business Advisory Committee



Dato' Chuah Lim Leng

Chairman of Greater Bay Area Initiative Committee

Director





CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE ON THE 47th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MALAYSIA-CHINA DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS



[Brotherhood in Solidarity/ in Weal and in Woe]

Berat sama dipikul, ringan sama dijinjing

With the advent of COVID-19 vaccines, global economic activities have seen a gradual revitalisation, and the slumbering trade market is experiencing a reawakening. China has the vision to build an international community where humanity shares a common destiny to commit to global security and economic development, which is invaluable, particularly amid this global pandemic. On the auspicious occasion of the 47th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Malaysia and China, let me offer my blessings and reflections on the profound friendship between our two nations with "Brotherhood in Solidarity, in Weal and in Woe."

Forty-seven years ago, Malaysia was honoured to be the first ASEAN country to establish diplomatic relations with China.

Since then, the mutual trust between us has flourished, and bilateral cooperation in various fields has yielded fruitful results. While the sudden pandemic outbreak has stifled the progression of the initial cooperation plans, the framework of the ongoing collaboration between bilateral leaders via the innovative method of "Cloud Diplomacy" has created a solid foundation for the two sides to forge ahead together today. With His Right Honourable Prime Minister of Malaysia, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin's previous announcement that he will embark on a diplomatic trip to China, we hope that this visit will further enhance the preexisting established agenda for cooperation and bring more significant benefits to the two countries.

Pursuing the shared values of peace and harmony has been the common goal of friendship between the two countries for many generations. Both countries are committed to promoting mutual respect, tolerance, mutual learning among cultures, and harmonious coexistence. Due to these values of harmonious coexistence and shared prosperities that transcend history, social system, and ideology that bind Malaysia and China together as an exemplary model of friendship to the world.

The Revitalisation of Global Recovery, Hope for Shared Prosperity of Malaysia and China

Over the past year or so, the global economy has been shrouded in gloom over the epidemic. Malaysia is fortunate to have received strong support from China during this period, particularly in vaccine supply. Notably, on November 20, Malaysia signed a vaccine research and development cooperation agreement with China. Both sides quickly reached a consensus on vaccine procurement; the first batch of Sinovac Biotech vaccines arrived in Malaysia within three months for public vaccination. The assistance we have received from our brother, China, is crucial for our country's anti-epidemic mission; this is proof of the bond between Malaysia and China. The achievements made in establishing diplomatic relations and cultivating deep friendship between Malaysia and China in the past, a testament to "Brotherhood in Solidarity, in Weal and Woe."

We are looking forward to China's support in public health, including medical resources, antiepidemic information, and vaccine research and development cooperation, and continuing to deepen bilateral cooperation to help Malaysia combat the epidemic.

The emergence of e-commerce, the Internet economy, digital economy, artificial intelligence, and many others, which have thrived under the shadow of the pandemic, has brought a glimmer of light to the economic marketplace. These areas will inevitably become a new growth point of Cooperation between Malaysia and China to grasp the trend of economic recovery. I hope that in the coming days, Malaysia and China will continue to focus on deepening bilateral connectivity and capacity cooperation based on promoting cooperation in trade, local investment, new energy, smart agriculture, cultural and cultural exchanges, technology transfer, food safety, tourism, and other fields. By strengthening our cooperation, we can transform the risk of the pandemic into an opportunity for development by tapping the potential of digital economic cooperation.

After Malaysia and China signed the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP), the partnership between the two countries has taken another great leap. The relationship between Malaysia and China will enter a new stage of development that will be more consolidated, implement the new development concept, build a new development landscape, and promote high-quality development.

Finally, I also hope that the two countries will work together to create a more harmonious and improved future with the joint efforts and promotion of the bilateral government and people.

Source: Prime Minister's Special Envoy to The People's Republic of China Office

Date: 31 May 2021

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE ON THE NATIONAL DAY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA 2020



On behalf of Malaysia, I would like to extend our warmest congratulations to the 71st anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China and wish China prosperity and peace in the years to come, as it continues to shine at the top of the East.

As a Malaysian of Chinese descent, I have had the privilege of witnessing the rise of China in recent years. The rapid leap in China's domestic infrastructure has attracted global attention and has led other countries to pay increasing attention to this highly promising economic pie in Asia, driving the economic development of other Asian cities. China has played a pioneering role in this process.

In addition, with the power of the media, different peoples around the world have been able to understand the ancient Chinese culture and wisdom, which is rich in history and has even created a "China fever" around the world, subliminally raising and emphasizing the identity and status of overseas Chinese. It is a real source of pride for the Chinese community.

On this meaningful day, I once again express on behalf of Malaysia our position in support of the One-China policy and will continue to fulfill my duties as Special Envoy to promote the friendly and fraternal relations between Malaysia and China, in line with the strategic vision of the Belt and Road Partnership, and to forge a mutually beneficial and indestructible friendship between the two countries.

The historical significance of China's National Day cannot be described in just a few words. By making all people aware of the history of the founding of the country, it promotes public patriotism and social consensus, creating a spirit of national unity and cohesion, which in turn serves as a strong backbone for the national government to promote development.

As China continues to move forward at a steady pace, we know that only when people work together to prioritize the collective interests of the country and give their best in an orderly and responsible manner can we build a society where people can live and work together. I look forward to a future in which both countries can learn from each other and bring different opportunities to the people of both countries.

Here, I would like to congratulate the 71st anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China once again. May the traces of the years do not frame our imagination of the new China, but rather write page after page of the nation's prologue, eventually composing into a great and colourful tome that will be passed down for centuries and inspire future generations.

Source: Prime Minister's Special Envoy to The People's Republic of China Office

Date: 1 October 2020

RCEP AND MALAYSIA

What it is and What you should know:

By: Dato' Dr. Tan Yew Chong Georgie Too Hann Huei Lim Kuan Ling

After decades of deliberations and negotiations, the signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement concluded on 15 November 2020. This agreement signifies the creation of the largest free trade agreement (FTA) bloc in the world (accounting for 30% global GDP and 30% of the world population), with participating members including 10 ASEAN nations and 5 ASEAN's FTA partners (AFPs)₁. RCEP represents the amalgamation of all existing FTAs and aims to economically integrate the 15 countries to engage in more comprehensive and mutually beneficial economic partnership, bringing significant improvements over existing ASEAN FTAs and Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

This agreement intends to strengthen the regional value chain and creates a rule-based multilateral economic partnership for businesses in the region. The general objective of RCEP is to facilitate trade and investment, focusing on trade in goods and services liberalization and a competitive investment environment. This agreement comes with flexibility and differentiated commitments to each participating member, addressing the concerns over provisions for economies of varying levels of development, businesses of differing sizes, and broader stakeholders.

RCEP agreement will come into effect in 60 days once ratified by three-fifths of the 15 signatories (namely 6 ASEAN countries and 3 AFPs₂. However, Malaysia has yet to ratify the agreement as expected by the end of 2021 or the first quarter of next year (2022)₃. Therefore, Malaysian SMEs must tap into the opportunities in RCEP and plan accordingly against the competition. RCEP will provide many incentives for businesses; however, how businesses can harness and utilise the tools available will determine the path, homegrown companies will emerge on the international stage.

References:

- 1. "Malaysia's Free Trade Agreements" (2021), https://fta.miti.gov.my/index.php/pages/view/rcep
- 2. As of 3 May 2021, only 4 countries had ratified the RCEP agreement (China, Thailand, Japan, and Singapore) https://www.china-briefing.com/news/ratification-status-rcep-expected-timeline-china-thailand-already-ratified/
- 3. MITI: Malaysia to ratify RCEP by year-end (29 March 2021), https://www.mida.gov.my/mida-news/miti-malaysia-to-ratify-rcep-by-year-end/
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- 5. Petri, P. and M. Plummer. 2020. East Asia Decouples from the United States: Trade War, COVID-19, and East Asia's New Trade Blocs. PIIE Working Paper. June. Washington DC: Peterson Institute for International Economics.

Who is inside the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)?



Source: Ministry of International Trade and Industry

10 ASEAN Members

- Malaysia
- Singapore
- Thailand
- Brunei
- Indonesia
- The Phillipines
- Vietnam
- Cambodia
- Laos
- Myanmar

5 ASEAN FTA partner countries or AFPs

- Mainland China
- Japan
- South Korea
- Australia
- New Zealand

Main Objective of RCEP

To streamline and amalgamate ASEAN with its AFPs into a SINGLE trade agreement to strengthen regional value chains in the region to achieve a more user-friendly and effortless use, especially for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

RCEP Key Features

• Tariff Elimination

Progressive elimination or reduction of customs duties for imports and exports.

• Supply and value chains optimisation

Establishment of facilitation opportunities to optimise industrial value chains.

• Intellectual property protection

Strengthen risk assessment and management towards international trade activities to mitigate compliance risks.

Liberalisation of investment

The creation of a competitive investment environment in the region for improved investment facilitation.

Temporary movement of natural persons

Facilitate the movement and expeditious processing of applications for businesses.

• E-commerce

Establishment of a framework to create a more conducive environment for e-commerce development globally and among the Parties.

Economic Assessment of RCEP

RCEP will account about 29% (\$25.8 trillion) of global GDP, 30% (2.3 billion of the world's population, and 25% (\$12.7 trillion) of global trade in goods and services⁴. Furthermore, the industries that will benefit from this agreement range from trade in goods, trade in services, ecommerce, intellectual property, SMEs, government procurement, and legal and institutional areas. RCEP seeks to build upon existing ASEAN Plus One FTAs, which includes Trade in Goods, Trade in Services and Investments. This agreement is the first free trade agreement, including China, Japan, and South Korea concurrently, comprising two of the world's largest economies. RCEP members are projected to gain \$174 billion in real income by 2030, and Malaysia is expected to accrue significant benefit from the agreement⁵.

The RCEP agreement will serve as a vital tool for deepening regional economic integration by opening the markets whilst creating economic reforms and industries' competitiveness with greater transparency, information exchange and better compliance for technical regulations and standards amongst RCEP member countries. Industries could take advantage of the progressive elimination and reduction of tariffs for trade in goods to enhance their intra-regional trade and investment whilst strengthening the regional value chains. In addition, the agreement promotes greater financial services to create a better investment environment via liberalization, protection, promotion, and facilitation.

So what does this mean for Malaysia?

North Asian Investment

Foreign Direct Investment from China, Japan, and South Korea interests will enter the Malaysian market.

Access to larger markets

Likewise, Malaysia will be able to access the high-growth markets of China, Japan, and South Korea.

• Ease of regional trade facilitation

90% of trade tariffs will be phased out gradually, and the creation of common provisions will be established to facilitate the movement of goods, funds, and people in the region.

Greater support for SMEs

The RCEP provides ample support and opportunities for small and medium enterprises expansion into lucrative markets.

• Regional facilitation for E-commerce

The RCEP enacts the legal framework for data and consumer protection whilst facilitating cross-border data transfer.

• Trade Optimization and Resilience

Supply value chains will be more integrated and resilient to economic shocks and fewer bottlenecks in the logistics process.

• Liberalization of Trade in Goods

Customs procedures, rules of origins, standards and regulations will be established to promote free trade among the parties—mutual understanding of respective standards and regulations.

• Liberalization of Trade in Services

Elimination of restrictive and discriminatory measures in financial and ICT sectors among RCEP participating members. Mutual recognition or professional and licensed qualifications.

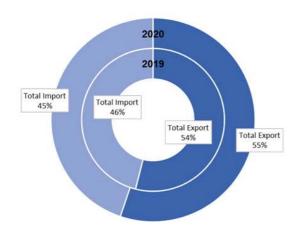
Intelectual Property and Data Protection

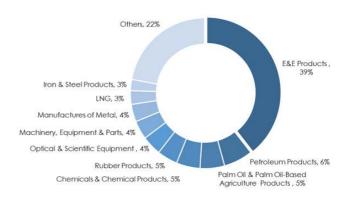
Enforcement of IP and data privacy rights ensures the protection of confidential and personal data for individuals and enterprises alike

Some information you should know about Malaysia:

Malaysia's External Trade 2019 and 2020:

Year	2020	2019	Changes (%)
Total Export (RM million)	980,988.0	995,071.9	-1.4
Total Import (RM million)	796,194.1	849,410.8	-6.3
Trade Balance (RM million)	184,793.9	145,661.1	26.9





Major Export Products (2020) (Total RM 980,988.0 Million)

Malaysia's External Trade 2019 and 2020

Source : Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation

COUNCIL UPDATE

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) agreements signed between MCBC and a few organizations have contributed to strategic cooperation and promoting business between Malaysia and China.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Signing Ceremony between MCBC and ICBC

28 August 2020 ICBC Office, Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre

The MoU between Malaysia-China Business Council (MCBC) and Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) was embarked upon to forge deeper collaboration and strengthen the business relationship for both parties. The MoU signing ceremony was held in conjunction with the launch of ICBC's cross-border business matchmaking platform.







Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) Signing Ceremony between MCBC and CAIQTEST

4 December 2020 MCBC Office, Kuala Lumpur

The objectives of this collaboration between Malaysia-China Business Council and CAIQTEST Innovation Malaysia Service Center are to leverage the CAIQTEST's expertise in inspection and quarantine; to facilitate the export of Malaysian products to China, also to develop and implement initiatives plus programs to enhance awareness and knowledge of local SMEs to drive export from Malaysia to China.





Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Signing Ceremony between MCBC and EMGS

16 March 2021 Ministry of Higher Education, Putrajaya

The MoU cooperation agreement between Malaysia-China Business Council and Education Malaysia Global Services (EMGS) will further enhance all marketing efforts of both parties to promote and encourage more Chinese students to pursue their higher education in Malaysia.







From left: the Chief Executive Officer of MCBC, Mr. Samuel Lee, Director-General of Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE), Prof Dato' Dr Husaini Omar, Executive Director of MCBC, Datuk Yong Teck Shing, Secretary General of MOHE, Datuk Seri Dr. Mazlan Yusof, Prime Minister's Special Envoy to the People's Republic of China cum Chairman of MCBC, Dato Sri Tiong King Sing, Minister of Higher Education, Datuk Seri Dr. Noraini Ahmad, Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Dato' Mansor Othman, Deputy Secretary-General (Management and Development) of MOHE, Datuk Rosli Yaakub and Chief Executive Officer of EMGS, Mr. Mohd Radzlan Jalaludin.

Working Visit to Alliance Steel (M) Sdn Bhd at MCKIP

9 November 2020 Kuantan, Pahang

This meeting aims to resolve the issues faced by the Alliance Steel (M) Sdn Bhd from their project in Malaysia-China Kuantan Industrial Park (MCKIP) and explore job opportunities in the steel industry in Malaysia.





Working Visit Dato Sri Tiong King Sing and MCBC Delegation to Sabah

Consul General of China Kota Kinabalu Pays Courtesy Call on Dato Sri Tiong King Sing

4 March 2021 Shangri-La Tanjung Aru Resort, Kota Kinabalu

The Prime Minister's Special Envoy to the People's Republic of China cum Chairman of MCBC, Dato Sri Tiong King Sing, received a courtesy call from the Chinese Consul General in Kota Kinabalu, H.E. Liang Caide, to exchange views on economic recovery in the post-pandemic era. The meeting was held to organise more ideas exchange sessions (visits & programs) between Malaysian and Chinese citizens (person-to-person diplomacy).







Dato Sri Tiong King Sing & MCBC Delegation Pays Courtesy Call to Datuk Seri Panglima Dr. Jeffrey G. Kitingan

5 March 2021 Sabah International Convention Center

Datuk Seri Panglima Dr. Jeffrey, the Deputy Chief Minister II Sabah cum Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries received a courtesy call from Dato Sri Tiong King Sing. The meeting was conducted to assist potential investment in agriculture and tourism.







Working Visit Dato Sri Tiong King Sing and MCBC to Ministry of Housing and Local Government

5 March 2021

Ministry of Housing and Local Government, Wisma Innoprise, Kota Kinabalu

The meeting between Dato Sri Tiong King Sing and the Minister of Housing and Local Government cum Minister of Finance II, Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Masidi Manjun was held to discuss about promoting Sabah properties to China and house buyers especially from Hong Kong facing issues in purchasing properties in Malaysia.





Working Visit to Manukan Island with Datuk Jafry Ariffin, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Environment Sabah

6 March 2021 Manukan Island, Kota Kinabalu

The Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Environment Sabah has briefed about Sabah Tourism Board, the precovid scenario of China market profile and investment opportunities in Sabah's tourism, and to discuss about potential islands or lands for development as a 5-stars resort/tourism hotspot to bring China investors to invest.





Courtesy Call on Deputy Chief Minister of Sabah cum Minister of Works, Dato' Sri Bung Mokhtar

8 March 2021

Ministry of Works, Jalan Sembulan, Kota Kinabalu

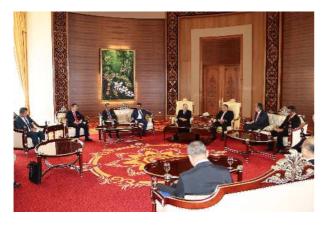
Dato Sri Tiong King Sing paid a courtesy call to Dato' Sri Bung Moktar and the meeting was held to discuss on the progress of the Pan Borneo Highway project.



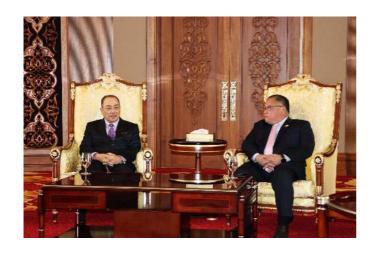


Courtesy Call on Chief Minister of Sabah, Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor

9 March 2021 Sabah State Administration Centre, Kota Kinabalu



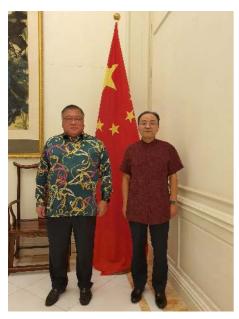
Dato Sri Tiong King Sing paid a courtesy call on the Chief Minister of Sabah, Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Hajiji Noor. Both sides held cordial discussions to explore the potential economic and investment opportunities that Sabah can achieve in the wave of development centered around the People's Republic of China.







Also present during the meeting were the State Public Service Director-General, Datuk Datu Rosmadi Datu Sulai, the State Secretary, Datuk Seri Panglima Safar Untong, Chief Minister of Sabah, Datuk Seri Panglima Hajiji Noor, Prime Minister's Special Envoy to the People's Republic of China cum Chairman of MCBC, Dato Sri Tiong King Sing, Prime Minister's Department's Senior Deputy Secretary-General, Datuk Seri Sallehuddin Hassan, Sabah Federal Secretary, Datuk Dr. Zulkapli Mohamed, Executive Director of MCBC, Datuk Yong Teck Shing and the Directors of MCBC, Tan Sri Datuk Seri Panglima Dr. Goh Tian Chuan and Datuk Yong Chiew Lip.



Meeting with the China Ambassador to Malaysia, H.E. Ouyang Yujing

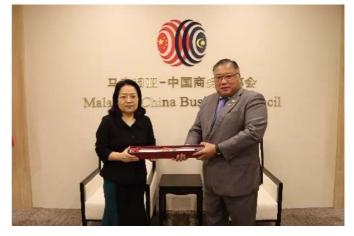
The Prime Minister's Special Envoy to the People's Republic of China cum Chairman of MCBC, Dato Sri Tiong King Sing welcomed H.E. Ouyang Yujing as the newly appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Malaysia and both strive to maintain the bilateral relationship between Malaysia and China.

Courtesy Call by Minister Counsellor of Economics and Commercial of the Embassy of The People's Republic of China, Zhang Peidong

16 March 2021 MCBC Office, Kuala Lumpur

The Minister Counsellor of Economics and Commercial of The Embassy of the People's Republic of China to Malaysia, Zhang Peidong, held a courtesy visit to MCBC's office meeting the Prime Minister's Special Envoy to the People's Republic of China cum Chairman of MCBC, Dato Sri Tiong King Sing. The meeting was held to discuss on matters related to birds' nests, Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement and tourism issues between Malaysia and China.





MCBC Annual's Meeting

17 December 2020



Malaysia-China Business Council held its annual meeting chaired by the Chairman, Dato Sri Tiong King Sing, to discuss on amendments to the council's constitution to facilitate the board to perform its duties more effectively with directors able to serve actively during their terms. With the combined efforts of the new directors, MCBC will succeed in uniting many forces to reshape and strengthen the existing economic and trade cooperation between Malaysia and China to develop the One Belt One Road trade vision actively, build regional connectivity and further expand bilateral trade and investment exchanges.







MCBC ACTIVITIES FROM 2020 TO 2021



Briefing Session by Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) 4 June 2020



Courtesy Call by China Enterprises Chamber of Commerce in Malaysia (CECCM) to MCBC 9 June 2020



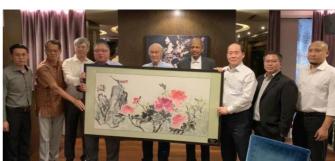
Meeting with the Managing Director of JDMAS Sdn Bhd, Dato' Bruce Lim 10 June 2020



Malaysia-China: E-Commerce & CAIQ Test Strategic Collaboration Meeting
10 June 2020



Visit to Huawei HQ & Technology Centre 16 June 2020



Dato Sri Tiong Met with Malaysia-China Friendship Association 16 June 2020



Dato Sri Tiong Meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dato' Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein 16 June 2020



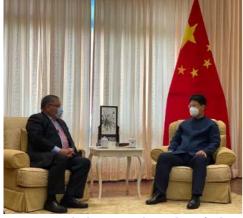
Witness Cloud Signing for Canton Fair 17 June 2020



Visit to Fusionex Centre of Excellence 17 June 2020



Visit to China Construction Bank Malaysia 17 June 2020



Meeting with the ex-Ambassador of China to Malaysia, H.E. Bai Tian 18 June 2020



Dato Sri Tiong video-conferencing meeting with Alibaba HQ team 22 June 2020



Visit to China Certification & Inspection Group (CCIC) and Lab 24 June 2020



Courtesy Call and briefing by China Communications Construction (ECRL) Sdn Bhd 26 June 2020



Dato Sri Tiong Meeting with Minister of Transport, Datuk Seri Ir. Dr. Wee Ka Siong 24 June 2020



Dato Sri Tiong Meeting with IJM Land Berhad Regarding MCKIP 6 July 2020



Meeting with Malaysia-Guangdong Chamber of Investment Promotion (MGCIP) 7 July 2020



Special Briefing by CEO of Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) on Malaysia-China Kuantan Industrial Park (MCKIP)
8 July 2020



Courtesy Call by Malaysia My Second Home (MM2H) to Dato Sri Tiong King Sing 8 July 2020



Courtesy Call by MAYCHAM Kunming and Shanghai to Dato Sri Tiong 8 July 2020



Courtesy Call by Sabah Maritime Silk Association to Dato Sri Tiong King Sing 9 July 2020



Visit to China Railway Engineering Corporation (CREC) 10 July 2020



Courtesy Call by Malaysia Cross Border E-Commerce Association (MCBEA) to MCBC 17 July 2020



Meeting between MCBC and Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) 24 July 2020



Meeting Between MCBC and Deloitte Malaysia 6 August 2020



Virtual Meeting with China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT Hainan) 17 August 2020



JDXPresto Merchant Pre-Launch Engagement & Store Unveiling 21 August 2020



MAYCHAM Event 'New Biz Opportunity After Covid-19' 26 August 2020



Meeting on Promoting Financial Innovation Pilot Work in the China-Malaysia Qinzhou Industrial Park (CMQIP) 26 Aug 2020



Teleconference with the Vice-Minister of the International Department of the CPC Committee, Mr. Guo Yezhou 4 Sep 2020



Visit to Vanke Malaysia 7 Sep 2020



Courtesy Call on MCBC Chairman by Deloitte Malaysia 9 Sep 2020



Courtesy Call by Malaysia-China Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) to Dato Sri Tiong King Sing 9 Sep 2020



Courtesy Call by Malaysia Maritime Silk Route Research Society & New Silk Road Network to Dato Sri Tiong King Sing 10 Sep 2020



MCBC Visit to Alibaba Cloud (Malaysia) 14 Sep 2020



Courtesy Call by Malaysia China Chamber of Commerce (Kedah & Perlis branch)
25 Sep 2020



International Commercial Dispute Prevention and Settlement Organization (ICDPASO) First General Assembly 29 Sept 2020



2020 China Malaysia (Guangxi) Online Durian Festival 5 Oct 2020



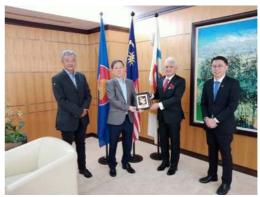
Attending ESD Online System Sharing Session 7 Oct 2020



Engagement with the CEO of Education Malaysia Global Services (EMGS), Mr. Mohd Radzlan Jalaludin 24 Nov 2020



MDEC & iFLYTEK Virtual MoU Ceremony 27 Nov 2020



Courtesy Call by MCBC to the CEO of Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE), Mr. Mohd Mustafa Abdul Aziz 31 Dec 2020



Virtual ZOOM Meeting with Sabah Government for Working Courtesy Visit to Sabah 6 Jan 2021



Meeting on MoU Signing Ceremony between EMGS and MCBC 7 Jan 2021



Courtesy Call by China Certification & Inspection Group (CCIC) to MCBC 8 Jan 2021



SIRIM QAS International Pays Courtesy Call on MCBC 8 Jan 2021



Virtual MoU Signing Between CAIQTEST Malaysia and POIC Sabah 27 Jan 2021



Courtesy Call to the Minister-Counsellor of the Economic and Commercial Counsellor's Office of the Chinese Embassy in Malaysia, Zhang Peidong led by the Chairman of MCBC Construction and Development Committee, Tan Sri Datuk Seri Tan Kean Soon 11 Mar 2021



Meeting Discussion with CRCC Malaysia Berhad 15 Mar 2021



Meeting Discussion with Usaha Teknikal Sdn Bhd for China Shangdong Port Collaboration 17 Mar 2021



Courtesy Call by Malaysia Inbound Chinese Association (MICA) to MCBC
18 Mar 2021



Courtesy Call by SME Malaysia (Women & Youth Division) to MCBC 25 Mar 2021



Courtesy Call by Malaysia Chinese Women Entrepreneurs Association to MCBC 26 Mar 2021



Courtesy Call by MCBC Cultural & Tourism Committee to Sabah Tourism Board 7 Apr 2021



Courtesy Visit by MCBC Business Investment Committee, led by the Chairman, Dato' Dr. Low Moi Ing to China Enterprises Chamber of Commerce in Malaysia (CECCM) 9 Apr 2021



Courtesy Call by MCBC Cultural & Tourism Committee on Minister of Sabah Tourism, Culture & Environment 19 Apr 2021



Courtesy visit of MCBC Business Investment Committee to the Economic and Commercial Office of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Malaysia 29 Apr 2021



Attending Henan Global E-commerce 10 May 2021



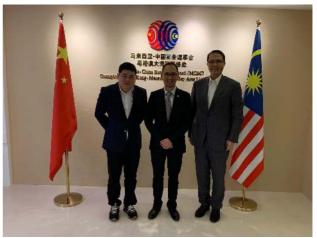
Dato Sri Tiong Delivering Keynote Speech during the International Finance Forum Spring Meetings 2021 30 May 2021



Attending Beijing Import and Export Online Fair (Southeast Asia and South Asia)
2 June 2021



Attending 2021 China Inner Mongolia Online Import and Export Fair 7 June 2021



Greater Bay Area Liaison Office Representative receiving Mr Yap Wei Sin, Malaysian Consul-General to Hong Kong
3 March 2021







Officiated Official Launch of JD 618 Shopping Festival Digital Expo & Promo 2021 17 June 2021

SUBCOMMITTEE

UPDATE

Education Committee

Chairman: Datuk Yong Teck Shing, J.P.

Deputy Chairman: Professor Dato Wilson Yong Tung Yung

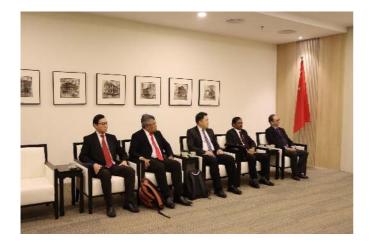
Members:

Dato' Loh Ming Choon, Jonathan Yew Chee Ming, Raymond Chin Yoon Siong, Goh Tong Kian,

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Roslee Rajikan, Assoc. Prof. Elajsolan Mohan, Nurul Asyira Binti Roslin, Bock Chek Lim









Business Investment Committee

Chairman: Dato' Dr. Jennifer Low Moi Ing, J.P.

Deputy Chairman: Ben Liew Pok Boon

Members: Dato' Liaw Choon Liang, J.P., Datuk Lee Hwa Cheng, P.J.N., Dato' Dr. Cheng Kok Leong,

Sun Boon Teck, Darlene Tan Pei Gen, Sally Chu Yoke Fong, Crystal Lee





Governmental / Diplomacy Committee

Chairman: Tan Sri Datuk Seri Panglima Dr. Goh Tian Chuan, J.P.

Deputy Chairman: Dato Tan Ah Chio, J.P.

Members: Koong Lin Loong, J.P., Lau Chin Kok, Chen Heng Mun, Dato' Goh Hin San, Dato' Ng Chin Heng,

Lim Chin Lee

Construction & Development Committee

Chairman : Tan Sri Datuk Seri Tan Kean Soon J.P.Deputy Chairman : Dato' Yong Chong Long, J.P. (Eric)

Members: Dato' Yap Yit Leong, Dato' Andy Zhao Guang Ming, Dato Sri' Kor King Toy, Adam Yee





Agriculture & Plantation Industries Committee

Chairman: Datuk Seri Lau Kuan Kam

Deputy Chairman: Ng Chin Long

Members:

Jeffrey Choong Wong Thiam, Alex Ng, Heng Boi Siang





MCBC to **CCPIT** Committee

Chairman: Dato' Beh Hang Kong

Deputy Chairman: Dato' Quek Ngee Meng

Members:

Dato' Ir. Fong Tian Yong, Michael Jan, Dato' Andy Zhao Guang Ming, Wang Shaoqiang, Brian, Annie Lim, Elaine Ooi,

Eng Kim Huat, Toh Hong Peir





IR4.0 & Technology Committee

Chairman : Dato' Ir. Fong Tian Yong Deputy Chairman : Chin Chee Seong

Members:

Yvonne Lai Pui Nee, Renee Ho Suet Ling, Danny Ng, Chang Wai Hoong, Cheah Kok Hoong, Prof. Jonathan Jun Li,

Raymond Gabriel







Legal Affairs Committee

Chairman : Dato' Fam Lee EeDeputy Chairman : Lee Kam Foo

Members:

Datuk Tan Hiang Joo, Dato' Ho Kam Phaw, Yap Hoi Liong





Investor Relations & Strategic Partnership

Chairman : Datuk Lee Say TshinDeputy Chairman : Koong Lin Loong J.P.

Member: Nelson (Xian) Li





Cultural & Tourism Committee

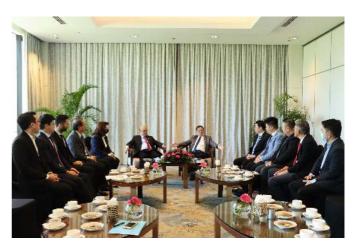
Chairman : Datuk Yong Chiew LipDeputy Chairman : Minah Hong Min Lah

Members:

Adrian Yong Chen Rein, Then Chun Tak, Alfred Saw Keng Boon, Desmond Chong Jia Nam, Alexander Hugo Malakun,

Jared Abdul Rahman, Wong Yu Chin





Belt and Road Initiative Committee

Chairman: Datuk Dr. Wong Aik Loung

Deputy Chairman: Tan Kok Beng

Members:

Ong Chen Choong, Tan Kok Chiang, Chan Chun Keat







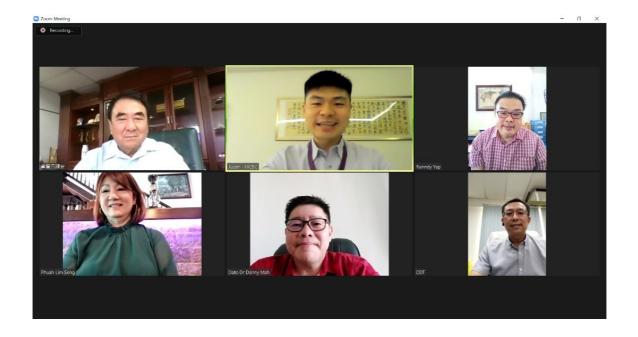
Trade & Promotion Policy Committee

Chairman: Datuk Pui Kian Onn

Deputy Chairman: Dato' Dr. Mah Che Beng

Members:

Dato' Dr. Danny Tan Eng Ching, Shirley Phuah Lim Seng, Ranndy Yap Kim Heng



Greater Bay Area Initiative Committee

Chairman: Dato' Andy Chuah Lim Leng

Deputy Chairman: Dato' Sri Alex Chuah Poh Khiang, Dato' Sri Danny Choo Keam Hui, Dato' Sri Chia Hooi Huak

Members:

Yeoh Jet Shen, Mint Leong, Carol Ho Choi Mun, Anthony Mah Song Sien, Lim Kai Hau

VISA & Business Advisory Committee

Chairman: Datuk Tee Guan Pian

Deputy Chairman: Dato' Derek Teng Hooi Kheong

Members :

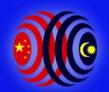
Datuk Wira Pua Kim An, Dato' Lai Keng Onn, James Ee Kah Fuk, Charles Yang Zhijun, Lim Tek How





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Malaysia-China Business Council (MCBC) Bulletin



Malaysia-China Business Council

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