

2023年8月31日 慶祝 マレーシア独立記念66周年



MESSAGE BY H.E. DATO' SHAHRIL EFFENDI ABD GHANY AMBASSADOR OF MALAYSIA TO JAPAN



Greetings to all esteemed readers,

First and foremost, please allow me to extend my gratitude to the Japan-Malaysia Association (JMA) for the opportunity to address you on this auspicious occasion as we celebrate the strong bonds of friendship and cooperation between Malaysia and Japan.

August 31, 2023 marks the 66th anniversary of Malaysia's National Day. The theme "Tekad Perpaduan Penuhi Harapan" (Determination in Unity, Fulfilling Hope) was chosen to emphasize the importance of unity in achieving shared hopes and aspiration. 2023 is also the year we celebrate the 66th anniversary of Malaysia - Japan diplomatic relations. In 1957, Japan was among the first country to establish diplomatic relations after the Federation of Malaya gained its independence from the British colonial rule. Since then, Japan has always been a close partner to Malaysia through various bilateral cooperation including trade, investment, education, science, and technology, tourism as well as cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

As a testament of our strong bilateral economic cooperation, the Trade and Investment Mission (TIM) to Japan led by H.E. Tengku Datuk Seri Utama Zafrul Aziz in May and June this year envisioned a total of USD5.07 billion potential investment and USD461.5 billion potential exports of products and services. Malaysia is also keen to explore more opportunities in Japan in the areas of agro-food and agro-tourism industry. Malaysia's reputation as a pioneer of the global Halal sector provides a comprehensive ecosystem that will bring advantages to Japan not only in hosting international events in the future but also an increased in local demand for halal food and products by domestic consumers and foreign travellers as well as tourists particularly with the lifting of travel restrictions post-pandemic. With the World Expo Osaka 2025 and the 2026 Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games in a couple of years, Malaysia stands ready to work closely with Japan to ensure the success of both events.

Meanwhile, the Look East Policy (LEP) which has benefitted both Malaysia and Japan since 1982 will continue to become a shared undertaking. The LEP has facilitated approximately 26,000 Malaysians comprising 8,800 exchange students and 17,500 trainees in providing valuable experiences in Japan. The Government of Malaysia is currently sponsoring 648 students to pursue studies across various disciplines in the Japanese universities. At the same time, a total of 1,054 Japanese students have been recorded pursuing their education in Malaysia in 2022. It continues to show positive development with 942 new applicants received as of July 2023. We look forward to the opening of the first Japanese university branch campus abroad (Tsukuba University) next year in Kuala Lumpur. It is my fervent hope to see more Japanese students pursuing their education in Malaysia.

Allow me also to commend the JMA for its crucial role at the onset of this journey that Malaysia and Japan embarked for the last 66 years. The positive and continuous engagement with JMA has helped shaped the close and warm ties that both Malaysia and Japan are currently enjoying. My wish is none other but for JMA to remain energetic in its efforts to foster greater understanding between the two countries.

Malaysia remains steadfast in its course to elevate the strong ties with Japan and ever ready to expand its partnership with Japan and charting its cooperation in various fields of importance to one another. In addressing the current global challenges, Malaysia looks forward to cooperate with Japan in the areas of climate change, sustainable development, green technology as well as global supply chain. Let us seize the opportunity to amplify our interactions through these potential collaborations that would strengthen further the ties that hold our nations together.

Arigatou gozaimasu and Selamat Hari Kebangsaan ke-66!