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Huang Zhien (middle), who received a donation of RM40,000 to purchase a cochlear implant processor, received a mock cheque for the donation. From left are Leung Siwei and Du Yuancheng, and from right are You Fuan and Lin Lunfu. (Photo by Pan Yonghua)

(Ipoh, 30th) [Perak Machinery Manufacturers Association](#) President Lim Lun Hock hopes that the government will take appropriate steps to provide machine manufacturers with leeway so that they can do business in an easier and more friendly environment to rebuild their businesses.

He said machine makers need to communicate with the government to deal with several challenges such as supply chain disruptions, labor shortages, spiraling costs of raw materials such as steel, and manufacturers are currently waiting for government assistance and intervention to resolve these issues.

### Weak exchange rates and higher borrowing costs

In his speech at the 89th Anniversary Gala Dinner of the Association last night, Lin Lunfu said that with the weak exchange rate between the ringgit and the US dollar and other foreign currencies, the import of raw materials is more expensive, and the overnight interest rate has risen three times in succession this year, reaching a total of 0.75%. make borrowing more expensive.

"This is very painful and onerous for manufacturers trying to recover from business shutdowns and restrictions during the pandemic."

Lin Lunfu said that after the Covid-19 epidemic, machine manufacturers were fortunate to have survived the abnormal period and were able to return to normal. After the relaxation of government regulations, business and personal activities were able to grow.

"But with inflation hitting 4.7% in August, and facing additional costs and regulations that must be followed, machine makers do need to understand and plan their business strategies in order to survive and stay in business, and everything is getting more expensive right now."

“At this moment, machine builders are in great need of strengthening their capabilities and skills to face ever-increasing challenges, both internal and external, such as the latest regulations.”

### **Digitalisation must be automated to increase productivity**

Lin Lunfu urged member manufacturers to move towards automation and digitalization, including the adoption of ESG concepts (environmental protection, social responsibility and corporate governance), which are very important in order to achieve and improve business standards with good efficiency and productivity.

He also reminded manufacturers that business practices must change over time and be prepared.

### **Liao Zhiming: Speed up the introduction of foreign workers**

Datuk Liao Zhiming, chairman of the Perak Chinese Chamber of Commerce, delivered a speech, hoping that the government would adopt an extraordinary period approach to speed up the introduction of foreign workers.

"At present, various industries are facing a severe shortage of workers, which is an urgent issue. The lack of workers will slow down the pace of the country's economic recovery; many companies have difficulty in bringing in foreign workers, and these companies must submit many documents during the application process. , waiting for a long time for inquiries, and all the application conditions must be met, which takes a long time.”

“As the epidemic was brought under control, many restrictions were eased and Singaporeans were allowed to go abroad, and as a result, many Singaporeans flocked to Singapore to work, making the domestic worker shortage even worse; according to National Recovery Council Chairman Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, The issue of worker shortage is often raised by SMEs and the plight of the lack of workers in the agricultural sector alone will cost the country an economic loss of RM22 billion in 2021.”

"The government is still bringing in foreign workers the way it was before the outbreak, when the shortage of workers was not as severe as it is now."

Liao Zhiming said that in order to reduce dependence on foreign labor, it is inevitable for enterprises to move towards Industry 4.0. Through high technology and production automation, production efficiency will be effectively improved.

### **Participation in seminars and trade fairs is encouraged**

He encouraged manufacturers to sign up for the Industry 4.0 seminar organized by the Malaysian Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry on December 6 at the Wanda Hotel in Petaling Jaya to improve their own business model and maintain sustainable operations; this seminar will showcase the latest developments for businesses Industry 4.0 technology development to encourage business transformation.

Liao Zhiming also hopes that businesses will actively participate in the "Perak Trade Fair 2022" which will be held from December 1 to 4 at the Indira Mulia Stadium in Ipoh.

The fair, which was sponsored by the Perak Central Committee, was originally scheduled to be held from October 20 to 23, but was forced to postpone due to the 15th general election. Now a new date has been set.

Datuk To Yuen Seng, President of the Malaysian Machinery Manufacturers Association, also delivered a speech.

### **Donated 40,000 yuan to buy cochlear implants**

The directors and members of the Perak Machinery Manufacturers Association donated RM40,000 to a woman, Huang Zhien, to purchase a cochlear implant processor. The mock cheque for the donation was handed over to Huang Zhien by the chairman of the banquet organizing committee, Leung Siwei.

The conference awards prizes to the winners of the friendly golf tournaments, as well as commemoratives to the representatives of the state machine manufacturers' associations who attended the banquet.

The banquet was lively. The attendees included the honorary advisor Lan Lan Bao, the acting president Li Yongqiang, the vice presidents Kwong Kwok-wah, Su Guoxin and Cai Gaobian, the financial officer You Fuan, the executive advisor of the Malaysian Machinery Manufacturers Association, Liu Zhonglong, the secretary Huang Xinsheng, and the financial officer Lin. Ming Chuan, Vice Chairman of Malaysian Manufacturers Association Dato Gan Deguang, Chairman of Perak Manufacturers Association Cai Qiren, President of Malaysia Hardware Machinery Materials Association Dato Xu Shengjie and Chairman of Singapore Iron Manufacturers Association Chen Qingsheng.



The Perak Machinery Manufacturers Association held a banquet to commemorate the 89th anniversary. Xu Shengjie (sixth from left), Du Yuancheng, Lin Lunfu, Liao Zhiming and Chen Qingsheng, accompanied by the directors, co-chaired the celebration of cutting the commemorative cake. (Photo by Pan Yonghua)



The directors of the Perak Machinery Manufacturers Association took a group photo with the guests at the banquet. From left are Cai Qiren, Yan Deguang, Liu Zhonglong, You Fuan, Lin Mingchuan, and from right are Lin Lunfu, Liao Zhiming, Du Yuancheng, Huang Xinsheng, and Li Yongqiang. (Photo by Pan Yonghua)