



PRESS RELEASE

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EXPERTISE EXCHANGE PROGRAM BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF MALAYSIA AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

PUTRAJAYA, JUNE 19, 2024 – The Government of Malaysia and the People's Republic of China (PRC) have successfully signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the Science and Technology Expertise Exchange Program. This significant event coincides with the official visit of His Excellency Li Qiang, Premier of the PRC, to Malaysia from June 18 to 20, 2024.

The MoU was signed by YB Tuan Chang Lih Kang, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, and His Excellency Ouyang Yujing, Chinese Ambassador to Malaysia. The ceremony was witnessed by YAB Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia, and the Premier of the PRC.

This MoU builds upon the Science, Technology, and Innovation Cooperation Agreement first signed on October 4, 2013, emphasizing the exchange of scientific and technological expertise between the two nations.

According to YB Chang Lih Kang, trade and investment have been the cornerstone of the relationship between Malaysia and the PRC. As the world's second-largest economy, the PRC remains an important trading partner, accounting for 17.1% of Malaysia's global trade. In 2023, the PRC remained Malaysia's largest trading partner for the fifteenth consecutive year since 2009, with total trade amounting to RM450.84 billion.

He added that this initiative aligns with the New Industrial Master Plan (NIMP) 2030, which strategically focuses on economic growth towards the development of innovation-driven industries, involving higher value-added activities. The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), as the national STI leader, has also identified high-growth, high-value (HGHV) areas, particularly technology-based

industries such as hydrogen, artificial intelligence (AI), biotechnology, and space technology.

Through this MoU, MOSTI will spearhead collaborative efforts that include exchange programs for scientists and researchers, partnerships between research institutions, and the co-organization of programs and academic conferences with international scientific and research participation.

This bilateral cooperation between Malaysia and the PRC is set to enhance capacity and expertise across various STI sectors, empowering a workforce of highly skilled and knowledgeable talents. These efforts are expected to drive the development of strategic, high-impact industries within the country. The focused exchange of expertise and research in STI will not only yield substantial benefits for both nations but also foster wider research collaborations and promote scientific progress and robust bilateral economic development.

This collaboration is particularly significant as it marks the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Malaysia and China, underscoring a commitment to strengthening bilateral ties and enhancing Malaysia's stature within the international science and technology community, thus propelling the national STI agenda forward.

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