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MALAYSIA STRENGTHENS POSITION AS GLOBAL HIH-TECH EXPORT LEADER, RANKED 9TH WORLDWIDE

24 APRIL 2025 – CYBERJAYA – Malaysia’s high-tech exports as a percentage of manufactured exports recorded a notable increase of 6%, rising from 52.48% in 2022 to 58.69% in 2023. The country also achieved a 10-year high trade surplus of USD51.5 billion. Meanwhile, Malaysia’s share of global high-tech merchandise exports rose to 3.32%, with export values increasing from USD125 billion to USD127 billion. This growth occurred within the context of an overall USD80 billion increase in global high-tech exports, which reached USD3.83 trillion in 2023.

Malaysia maintained its 9th position among 143 economies in the global ranking for high-tech merchandise exports, unchanged from the previous year. These figures were reported in the Malaysia’s High-Tech Performance Report 2023, produced by the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT). The analysis is based on data from the United Nations COMTRADE database and measures high-tech exports according to R&D intensity, as defined by the OECD.

Present at the briefing were the Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation, YB Chang Lih Kang, the Secretary-General of MOSTI, Datuk Seri Hj. Hasnol Zam Zam bin Hj. Ahmad, MIGHT Joint-Chairman (Industry) Tan Sri Ahmad Tajuddin Ali, MIGHT Joint-Chairman (Government) Tan Sri Zakri Abdul Hamid, and Chief Executive Officer Rushdi Abdul Rahim. Also present were members of MIGHT’s Board of Directors, industry stakeholders, and officials from the governmental and academic sectors.

The Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, YB Chang Lih Kang, reaffirmed MOSTI’s commitment to further driving Malaysia’s high-tech development landscape. He stated that MOSTI is committed to expanding and strengthening the innovation ecosystem to ensure sustained competitiveness in all facets of nation-building, especially in the nation’s high-tech sector. The National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (NSTIP) 2021–2030 underscores this commitment—not only to

transform Malaysia into a high-tech nation, but also to support Malaysia's transition from a user to a developer and creator of technology.

He further emphasised that an 'all-of-nation approach' is required to create a comprehensive high-technology ecosystem, comprising a network of interconnected and interdependent drivers. Dedicated action points—including Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) talent, research and development, policy and regulations, advanced technology platforms, and both physical and digital infrastructure—have been identified in the NSTIP to spur the national innovation value chain.

MIGHT's President and Chief Executive Officer, Rushdi Abdul Rahim stated that "While the Electronics Telecommunication product group stands as the leading contributor with USD 36 billion or 80.58% of high-tech merchandise exports across the nine subgroups, there exist significant potential for growth in other categories, including scientific equipment, computer office machines, electrical machinery, and aerospace surplus, if supported by a robust innovation ecosystem and effective market penetration strategies".

In addition to contributing directly to Malaysia's aspirations of becoming a high-tech, high-income nation, this dynamic ecosystem also advances the country's pursuit of technology sovereignty, ensuring that we not only adopt but also master and control strategic technologies. Aligned with the core values of the MADANI Government, particularly sustainability, innovation, and economic dignity, this effort empowers Malaysia to negotiate from a position of strength in global trade, play a more influential role in regional and international alliances, build resilient and inclusive supply chains, and respond decisively to global disruptions, while ensuring long-term prosperity and shared progress for the rakyat.

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About MIGHT:

The Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT) serves as a think-tank and provides strategic advisory in prospecting for and the promotion of industry development through strategic application of science and technology for Malaysia's socioeconomic development. Its key role is building and driving partnerships in technology through a consensus building platform between the private and public sectors and providing strategic advice and alliance to shape high technology studies, capacity building through policy interventions as well flagship programmes and strategies.

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