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KL among top targets for real estate investment

Bangkok, Hong Kong and Kuala Lumpur will be the favourite targets for real estate investment in Asia by regional investors this year, according to a study by property consultancy Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL).

The survey also highlighted improved real estate sentiment and liquidity in the region, with most markets in Asia seeing an upturn this year.

JLL reported that investors were most positive about Bangkok, according to the city a very positive sentiment index. The optimism was attributed to Thailand's strong economic performance for the last two years.

Hong Kong and KL ranked second. For China's Special Administrative Region, JLL said high export growth, a stock market revival and a surge in mainland Chinese tourists were the main factors for its real estate recovery.

According to JLL's Singapore managing director Dr Yu Lai Boon, it was the smooth transition of power from former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad to Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and strong manufacturing recovery that led to improved investor confidence in Malaysia.