

M'sian favourability towards China at new high – survey

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Malaysian perceptions of China have improved significantly in recent years, according to a public opinion survey by the Merdeka Centre, which underscores growing support for bilateral relations, Chinese investments, and areas of cooperation between the two nations.

The survey, conducted from May 17 to June 10 and involving 1,225 respondents from across Malaysia, revealed that 84 percent of Malaysians view ties with China positively, up from 70 percent in 2022.

Similarly, 77 percent of respondents said the relationship was heading in the right direction, compared to 64 percent two years earlier.

Public sentiment towards Chinese investments also showed marked improvement, with 82 percent of respondents expressing favourable views, compared to 70 percent in 2022.

Only nine percent held negative opinions, reflecting growing recognition of the

economic benefits of China's involvement in Malaysia.

Key areas for future collaboration were also identified in the survey, with respondents highlighting the digital economy (48 percent), infrastructure development (20 percent), and tourism (12 percent) as top priorities.

Emerging sectors such as electric vehicles (nine percent) and the green economy (five percent) also garnered interest.

Tourism remains a cornerstone of Malaysia-China relations, with 82 percent of respondents identifying it as the primary driver of engagement with China. Education and work opportunities were also cited as significant contributors.

Over the past two years, 62 percent of respondents said their overall impression of China had improved, a sharp rise from 34 percent in 2022. This reflects growing confidence in the bilateral relationship, driven by shared economic goals and cultural ties.

The survey results underline the strengthening partnership between Malaysia and China, providing insights for policymakers and stakeholders as both countries look to deepen collaboration in various fields.

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