

**Malacca's developed status not endorsed by OECD**  
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KUALA LUMPUR - The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said the declaration of Malacca's developed status made by Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak on Oct 20 was not endorsed by the organisation.

The Malaysian Insider reported Tuesday that John Hall, a representative of OECD, confirmed in an email that the organisation did not endorse the declaration as it was not in a position to set the criteria.

Hall, who managed the OECD-hosted Global Project on Measuring the Progress of Societies, said there is no official definition of a developed country which he said he had stressed in his speech made during a celebration held on Oct 20.

He said the declaration was an initiative by Malacca state government and it was for the locals themselves to decide whether they were or were not developed, not bodies like the OECD which is a group of 33 countries with the world's highest GDP.

PM had declared Malacca a developed state via tele-conferencing from Kuala Lumpur to a massive crowd gathered at a celebratory ceremony at Stadium Hang Jebat.

Prior to that, the state chief Minister Ali Rustam had claimed that Malacca had met the 32 criteria set by OECD to qualify as a developed economy, the online news website reported.

The chief minister had also mentioned about Melaka Maju 2010 which was part of a 10-year development plan for Malacca.

Hall said he was not aware if there were claims made during the event that OECD endorsed the developed-state declaration as there was no interpreter to help translate Bahasa Malaysia to English and noted there could be misunderstandings with one of the newspapers.

"The criteria you mention were set by the Malaccan statistics office and benchmarked against OECD member countries — all that work was done by the Malaccan authorities although they used the OECD data where possible, I believe," Hall was quoted as saying by MI.

According to Hall, he had been in contact with the state authorities on their initiative and also wanted to provide some statistical evidence of Malacca's development and goal towards reaching a developed state status by 2020.

"They felt that one way would be to benchmark themselves to the OECD averages, which to me, seems as a reasonable approach as any so long as they picked a selection of indicators (not just income-based ones) and had a public debate," he said and MI reported.

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