

# PM rolls out red carpet for US investors

> Ismail Sabri welcomes American businesses, suggests Tesla invest in electric vehicle production in Malaysia

**WASHINGTON:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob on Wednesday rolled out the red carpet for American investors and businessmen, and presented Malaysia as a preferred investment destination.

He welcomed them, especially the Fortune 500 companies, to invest or increase their investment in Malaysia, namely in economic digital, green technology and electric car sectors.

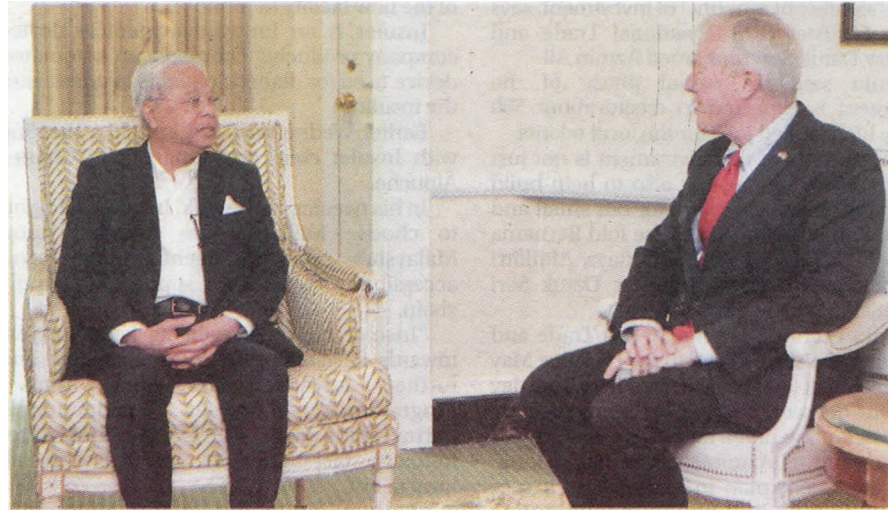
"I've suggested to Tesla to invest in Malaysia in producing electric cars," he told Malaysian journalists after meeting Ted Osius, president and CEO of the United States-Asean Business Council (US-ABC), at a hotel here.

Set up in 1984, the US-ABC represents 170 major American businesses in Southeast Asia.

The prime minister, who arrived here on Tuesday, is on a four-day working visit to the US, during which he will meet with US President Joe Biden and other Asean leaders.

Ismail Sabri said he has asked the US-ABC to play a bigger role in attracting investment to Asean, especially Malaysia.

"They regard Malaysia as an important trading partner of the United States," he said



Ismail Sabri (left) chatting with Osius in Washington on Wednesday. - BERNAMAPIX

of the US-ABC reaction.

Later, Ismail Sabri had a session with World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA) secretary-general Dr James H. Poisant at the same venue.

The prime minister said WITSA will hold the World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT), the world's largest IT conference, in Penang in September.

"I hope this congress will benefit Malaysians in terms of technology," he said, adding that participants from all over the world, including speakers from America's space agency, will converge on the congress.

In another meeting at the same venue, Ismail Sabri met Dr Adam S. Posen, president of the Peterson Institute for

International Economics, as well as East-West Center vice-president Dr P. Limaye.

The prime minister also held discussions with Dr Kurt M. Campbell, deputy assistant to the US president and coordinator for Indo-Pacific affairs in the National Security Council.

Ismail Sabri told Campbell that all Asean member countries should be involved with the US-led initiative Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF).

At the moment, some countries from the grouping are not in the picture for the major trade and economic initiative for the Indo-Pacific region.

"Malaysia is of the view that all Asean countries should be involved," he said, adding that Kuala Lumpur has agreed in principle to join the IPEF. - Bernama