



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim (centre) at the Malaysia-China Business Forum in Beijing on Saturday, PIC COURTESY OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

HISTORIC

MANY SUCCESSES IN PM'S VISIT TO CHINA

Chinese industry captains embrace Malaysia's independent stand and business-friendly approach



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BEIJING

P RIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's four-day official visit to China, which ended yesterday, was historic and saw a list of successful outcomes.

The visit focused on strengthening bilateral ties, which were established in 1974.

Malaysia continues to receive investment commitments from businesses and industrial figures in China, who are expected to double their investments in the country.

The confidence expressed by Chinese captains of industries was due to Malaysia's independent stand on the world stage, and the investor and business-friendly approaches of the government.

A total of RM170.07 billion in investment commitments was received as a result of the prime minister and Malaysian delegation's visit to China — the highest ever achieved.

These investment commitments come in addition to RM2.44 billion in Malaysian products that will be exported to China. They were generated by the signing of 19 memorandums of understanding (MoU) between businesses in China and Malaysia in various fields.

China has been Malaysia's largest trading partner since 2009, with last year's bilateral trade valued at RM487.13 billion — a 15.6 per cent increase from 2021.

The success of Anwar's visit to China continued with the signing of another MoU to strengthen cooperation in education, which includes technical and vocational education and training, as well as research cooperation with Tsinghua University in Malaysia.

The visit also improved access to China's market for Malaysian agricultural products such as palm oil, rubber and biodiesel, guaranteeing better returns for farmers and local industries.

In science and technology, the two countries agreed to improve cooperation in vaccine development and research and development in high technology, as well as the digitalisation of the economy.

Malaysia also agreed to negotiate with local airlines to increase the frequency of flights to China to cater to tourists in both countries.

This move was in line with the

reopening of China's border, and Malaysia's efforts to revive its tourism sector after the Covid-19 pandemic.

At the final press conference for the visit, Anwar shared his experience meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping and his counterpart Li Qiang.

He said both leaders agreed to boost trade relations and economic cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative, and expedite the East Coast Rail Link project.

Anwar said Malaysia and China agreed to explore new areas of cooperation, including new-generation car manufacturing through the Automotive Hi-Tech Valley (AHTV) project, as well as the halal industry.

"The reception was very good and extraordinary. I consider this a very positive development. This visit has been of great benefit to Malaysians."

The AHTV project — a collaboration between DRB-Hicom Bhd and Chinese company Geely — is expected to bring in RM32 billion in investments over the next 10 years, including from national car company Proton.

The mega project, involving an estimated 404.69ha of land to be developed as a next-generation vehicle hub in Tanjong Malim in Perak, will create tens of thousands of jobs.

Anwar's visit to China also marked the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Malaysia-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

Malaysia and China are also celebrating the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations next year.