

**Malaysia gets Forbes' nod**  
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**By Goh Thean Eu**

'Impressive policies put it on track to developed nation status'

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysia is on track to become a developed country mainly due to positive changes it has made to attract investors and grow the economy, said American editor, publisher and businessman Steve Forbes.

He said Malaysia's recovery from the global recession was "impressive" and the country was doing the right things to improve its competitiveness.

He sees the Malaysian government delivering its promises such as restructuring, economic development, lowering barriers and other initiatives.

"Malaysia's performance from outsiders' perspective certainly has been very impressive.

So far, despite the adverse conditions around the world, it seems like Malaysia is moving in a positive direction. "Also, the country's growth rate has been impressive, and I wish we can have something approaching that in the United States," said Forbes, who is the editor-in-chief of business magazine Forbes .

Malaysia's economy grew 7.2 per cent last year and is expected to grow by five to six per cent this year, partly driven by the Economic Transformation Programme.

Forbes is in Malaysia to attend the Forbes Global CEO Conference.

This is the second time the conference is being held in the country. Malaysia played host for the first time in 2009.

Forbes, who was in Malaysia two years ago, said he has seen a big, positive difference in the country during the current visit.

"What you see today is there is follow-through, things are actually being done, restructuring positively, economic development, reducing barriers, dealing with subsidies, investment barriers and others." These initiatives, according to Forbes, are being done in an environment where most of the governments in the world today are "going backwards instead of forward".

"So, that is encouraging. It is a positive trend, that's what we like, it's one thing to make promises and quite another to work to make those promises a reality. So far, the Malaysian

government is delivering on the reality." International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed said trade talks with the US were progressing well.

"We are already talking specifics."

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