

M'sia still strong to receive FDIs: Najib
New Straits Times
07 October 2012

KERTIH: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak today said that despite the uncertain global economic climate, Malaysia was still in a strong position to receive direct foreign investments.

For the first quarter of 2012, foreign direct investments (FDIs) stood at RM13 billion, he said.

"It is clear proof that foreign investors have confidence in our country as a prime investment destination," he said in his speech at the groundbreaking ceremony for the world's first Green Bio L-Methionine and Thiochemicals integrated plant at the Kerteh Biopolymer Park, here, today.

The RM2 billion project, occupying 70 hectares in area, is a joint project between CJ CheilJedang from Korea and France-based Arkema's thiochemicals platform. It is due to start operations in December 2013.

The integrated facility will be the first such facility in the world to use a filtering process for the production of L-Methionine, a form of amino acid used in the production of animal feed.

The East Coast Economic Region Development Council (ECERDC) and BiotechCorp Malaysia had partnered to bring in the investment into Malaysia and its implementation in Kertih.

Also present at today's event were Menteri Besar Terengganu Datuk Seri Ahmad Said, Chief Executive Officer of CJ CheilJedang Kim Chu Ha and Vice Executive President of Arkema, Marc Schuller.

Najib said when receiving foreign investments, the government, besides considering the impact on the country's economy, would also look at how the investment would benefit the people.

These would include benefits such as employment opportunities, business, and a rise in living standards as well as the activities of corporate social responsibility for the locals.

On the bio-methionine project, Najib said: "I am proud to note that this project also marks the first major investment by an international industrial biotechnology company in the country, which will position Malaysia alongside other global feed producers and exporters. It also proves that Malaysia has emerged to become an important player in the global innovation forum."

He said the Kertih Biopolymer Park was one of the key projects in the ECER Special Economic Zone, a concentration of high-impact projects spanning from Kertih in Terengganu to Kuantan in Pahang, that will be the catalyst of economic growth in ECER Malaysia.

"I was made to understand that collaboration of CJ and Arkema alone is expected to generate a Gross National Income (GNI) of RM11.1 billion by 2020 and some RM20 billion in sales by then, as well as nearly 500 employment opportunities, most of which will be sourced locally."

The Prime Minister said that the biofinery complex, which is slated to be operational by 2013, will be using renewable energy from biomass as opposed to natural gas.

"The total project is expected to generate a cumulative GNI of RM20.4 billion by 2020 and produce 2,500 green-jobs for Malaysia. With anticipated FDIs totaling around RM7 billion, the 1,000 hectares complex located at Kertih BioPolymer park is expected to be occupied by eight global industrial biotechnology players by 2015," he said.

Copyright © 2012 The New Straits Times Press (Malaysia) Berhad.

Source: <http://www.nst.com.my/latest/m-sia-still-strong-to-receive-fdis-najib-1.153374#>