

**Malaysia's Economic Growth Prospects To Remain Robust This Year - World Bank
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PETALING JAYA, March 25 (Bernama) -- Malaysia's economic growth prospects will remain robust this year, supported by improvements in the exports amid the potential impact from fiscal consolidations, said an economist.

World Bank Senior Country Economist for Malaysia, Dr Frederico Gil Sander, said the country could rely on the export and domestic sectors when needed.

"Malaysia is a stable country in term of growth rate. I think it is not going to be different from what we have before," he told reporters on the sidelines of the Global Malaysia Series talk here Tuesday.

Gil Sander said this when asked to comment on Malaysia's gross domestic product (GDP) this year.

Last year, World Bank forecast Malaysia's GDP growth to moderate from 5.6 per cent in 2012 to 4.5 per cent in 2013.

The government is committed to reducing the fiscal deficit to three per cent of GDP in 2015 and achieving a balanced budget in 2020.

Gil Sander said Malaysia needed a comprehensive approach to transform the education system to produce human capital and connect with innovative and high-technology companies.

"It takes a commitment from all parties to improve the education, especially school administrators, teachers and parent," he said.

He said Vietnam's general education system was more successful than that of other countries, including Malaysia's Programme for International Student Assessment 2012.

The result, which was released last year, revealed that Vietnamese students in the rural areas performed much better than the average Malaysian student, he said.

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