

## **Malaysia Hopes To Upgrade Trade Deals With U.S During Najib's Visit**

**BERNAMA**

**07/09/2017**

SHAH ALAM, Sept 7 (Bernama) -- The International Trade and Industry Ministry (MITI) hopes an upgraded version of the trade facilitation agreement with the US will be achieved during Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak's upcoming visit to Washington.

Second International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Ong Ka Chuan said currently, there was no trade agreements inked between the two countries except for the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) which was signed in 2004 to facilitate trade and investment activities.

"Previously, when we negotiated the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA), TIFA was put on hold as the former was more comprehensive.

"Now without TPPA, we are thinking of having an upgraded version of TIFA with the US, as TIFA is an agreement to go towards the goal of establishing a free-trade agreement at the end," he told a press conference after visiting the Central i- City Shopping Centre here today.

Ong said the US is the world's biggest market that Malaysia could not afford to ignore.

Najib is expected to call on US President Donald Trump at the White House on Sept 12, 2017.

Statistics released by MITI yesterday revealed that bilateral trade between Malaysia and the US stood at RM93.77 billion for the first seven months of the year.

Exports to the US rose 11.1 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) to RM50.54 billion while imports jumped 33.1 per cent y-o-y to RM43.23 billion.

-- BERNAMA

© 2017 BERNAMA. All Rights Reserved. [Disclaimer](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Security Policy](#)

Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/newsindex.php?id=1389285>