



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Malaysia - First in ASEAN to Sign Agreement on Reciprocal Trade with United States

Kuala Lumpur, 27 October 2025 – The American Malaysian Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) welcomes the signing of the Malaysia–U.S. Agreement on Reciprocal Trade (ART), a landmark achievement that reaffirms the strength and depth of the bilateral economic relationship between both nations. This agreement underscores Malaysia’s position as a strategic partner of the United States in Southeast Asia and opens new avenues for collaboration in trade, investment, and innovation across key industries.

The historic accord, formalized on the weekend by Prime Minister Dato’ Seri Anwar Ibrahim and President Donald J. Trump, marks the culmination of concerted efforts by the Ministry of Investment, Trade, and Industry (MITI) and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR). It represents a significant milestone in advancing balanced, sustainable growth and strengthening economic ties built over six decades of partnership grounded in trust, openness, and shared prosperity.

“American companies have been integral to Malaysia’s growth journey investing in people, technology, and ideas that continue to shape Malaysia’s global competitiveness,” said Dato’ Siobhan Das, Chief Executive Officer of AMCHAM.

“This new agreement is founded on a redefined approach to trade, centered on building a trusted and secure trading framework that prioritizes value enhancement, transparency, and integrity throughout the supply and value chains, alongside fostering reciprocal investments. It further strengthens the commitment of American multinational corporations and opens fresh opportunities for cooperation, trade, and innovation, while enhancing resilience across critical supply chains. Building on decades of close cooperation, compliance, and global standards, this agreement provides more opportunities for closer engagement with local SMEs and two-way trade and investments; it could also offer businesses that have a U.S. market focus some alternatives for their supply chains.”

Being one of the first countries to reach an actionable agreement reinforces Malaysia’s strategic and leadership position and demonstrates that there is a pathway forward to access the U.S. market. Companies will now have a better understanding of how to deploy their supply chains and unlock value that has been looking for greater clarity, although there is still some work to be done as we unpack this agreement,” Dato Siobhan added.

Representing over 300 member companies across sectors such as electrical and electronics, healthcare, medical devices, and ICT, AMCHAM highlights the robust contribution of U.S. businesses to Malaysia’s development. As of September 2025, total bilateral trade reached RM270.8 billion (MITI), while U.S. investments for 2024 reached

RM32.8 billion (MIDA), reaffirming Malaysia's standing as a preferred regional hub for high-value industries and sustainable growth.

With its strategic location, advanced infrastructure, and skilled workforce, Malaysia continues to offer a compelling platform for U.S. enterprises seeking expansion and innovation opportunities, positioning the country as a gateway to ASEAN and beyond.

"This Agreement on Reciprocal Trade builds on a strong foundation of collaboration. AMCHAM remains steadfast in supporting our members as they leverage the opportunities created by this agreement and continue to strengthen the enduring partnership between Malaysia and the United States," Dato' Siobhan concluded.

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ABOUT AMCHAM MALAYSIA

The American Malaysian Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) was founded in 1978 as an international, non-profit, private-sector business association. It comprises more than 1600 members representing over 300 American, Malaysian, and other international companies with strong ties to American business. The Chamber is a member of the AmChams of Asia Pacific

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