



AMCHAM STATEMENT
11 September, 2025

English Proficiency Drives Malaysia’s Global Competitiveness, AMCHAM Snap Poll Finds

Kuala Lumpur, 11 September 2025 - The American Malaysian Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) affirms that strengthening English proficiency is fully compatible with upholding Malaysia’s national language, which remains a cornerstone of unity and identity.

Findings from AMCHAM’s snap poll of almost 40 companies underscore that English proficiency is viewed as indispensable for workplace success in Malaysia, with nearly all respondents rating it as “very important” and most reporting that up to 100% of their workforce uses English daily for communication, reporting, training, and presentations. Beyond day-to-day operations, proficiency in English is viewed as a key driver of career advancement, facilitating international collaboration, professional networking, and increased access to global opportunities. It also plays a decisive role in hiring and promotion decisions, positioning it as a key factor in the career growth of local talent within multinational organizations.

Looking ahead, companies anticipate that the importance of English will continue to increase over the next five years, driven by globalization and workplace digitalization. At the same time, challenges remain: employees with lower proficiency often experience miscommunication, reduced productivity, and limited opportunities for growth. Recognizing this, many American multinationals in Malaysia have already invested in English training and plan to expand their support, viewing strong language skills as both a workforce necessity and a competitive advantage.

“As global organizations, our members rely on English to unify diverse teams, ensure clarity in client communications, and open opportunities for Malaysian talent to thrive in international roles. English is not just a skill—it’s a strategic business imperative for innovation and growth in the region,” said Dato’ Siobhan Das, AMCHAM’s Chief Executive Officer.

AMCHAM calls on stakeholders to invest further in English language education and training, ensuring Malaysia remains an attractive destination for investors, multinational corporations, and global talent. Strengthening English language skills, particularly for new entrants to the workforce, is crucial to unlocking opportunities, fostering innovation, and enhancing Malaysia’s long-term competitiveness in global supply chains.

“At the same time, AMCHAM affirms that enhancing English proficiency fully complements the enduring importance of Malaysia’s national language, which remains a cornerstone of unity and cultural identity,” Dato’ Siobhan added.

For more information, please contact:

Media Contact:

Yvonne Miranda

T: +603 2727 0070 | E: media@amcham.com.my

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.

Find us on:

amcham.com.my

facebook.com/AmChamMalaysia

twitter.com/AmChamMalaysia

linkedin.com/in/amchammalaysia