

OPENING REMARKS for Mr. Ramzi - AMCHAM AGM 2019

A very good afternoon

- Yang Amat Berhormat **Tun Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad**, Prime Minister of Malaysia;
- **The Honorable Kamala Shirin Lakhdir**; U.S. Ambassador to Malaysia;
- Distinguished guests and members,

It is an honor to welcome you all to AMCHAM's 2019 Annual General Meeting luncheon.

My thanks to those of you that have participated in AMCHAM's 42nd AGM this morning, helping us to ensure that our Chamber is subject to the same good governance practices that our members adhere to in their own organizations.

Ladies and gentlemen, AMCHAM is honored to host Prime Minister Tun Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad, who is joining us for the second time since his election as Malaysia's Prime Minister in May 2018.

Tun, we greatly appreciate your attendance today and are thankful to you for making time in your incredibly busy schedule.

Last June I emphasized that the economic relationship between Malaysia and the U.S. is deeply significant - not only in terms of net trade and investment figures but also in terms of longevity and a mutual commitment to shared growth and prosperity.

Your presence with us this afternoon is a testament to the ongoing strength of this relationship and your government's recognition of the importance of the US business community's longstanding relationship and investments in Malaysia.

As Tun is familiar with AMCHAM, I won't repeat too much about our community and the valuable economic contributions that our 260 members make to the Malaysian economy through their job creation, skills transfer, through their vendor development programs, and the introduction of new technologies that drive Malaysia towards the digital age in both the services and advanced manufacturing industries.

Tun, I wanted to take this opportunity to highlight some of the specific investments made by a few of our member companies over the past year. This is not a comprehensive list, just a few examples, but it does demonstrate the variety

of investment areas and the multiple industries that we are helping to advance up the value chain.

- **Accenture** has selected Malaysia for the establishment of a number of regional delivery centers, creating several thousand new and well-paid jobs.
- **General Electric** announced a major investment in their maintenance, repair, and overhaul facility for jet engines in Subang, as well as a Global IT service desk based out of Malaysia.
- **Microsoft** has confirmed the creation of an applied artificial intelligence center in partnership with MIMOS to support Malaysia's adoption of cloud technologies and development towards high-tech-industry status.
- **ExxonMobil** further expanded its footprint in Malaysia by growing its Kuala Lumpur Technology Center that serves its affiliates worldwide. More than 100 engineering positions were added and we expect this rate of expansion to continue for the next couple of years.
- **Smart Modular** has chosen Malaysia as its base for a global supply chain management center, employing 90 highly-skilled Malaysians capable of leveraging big data, cloud computing, and real-time analytics technology.
- **MetLife** is building a new Center of Excellence for finance in Kuala Lumpur, which will employ over 80 people, predominantly Malaysians. The Centre of Excellence will partner with MetLife's local country and global finance teams to provide expertise and support on financial reporting, planning and analysis, and finance technology systems. In addition to this, MetLife has already set up a technology and operations hub in Malaysia and in 2014 established AmMetLife, through a strategic partnership with AmBank Group.
- We are also exploring opportunities to leverage our experience in innovation to drive talent development and nurture tech-savvy start-ups in Malaysia's insurance sector, particularly in the Takaful space.
- **Coca-Cola** continued to implement a RM500 million investment, additional to the RM1 billion already invested in Malaysia since 2010. This latest investment expands the size and production capacity of their plant at Bandar Enstek to include:

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- a state-of-the-art automated warehouse facility
 - technical training for warehouse associates to monitor, control, and optimize the productivity of the new logistics software,
 - an additional manufacturing line to produce low- & zero-sugar products here in Malaysia.
 - It can also boast to have one of the largest solar rooftop installations in the region.
- **Schmidt Abrasive Blasting**, a supplier of abrasive blasting equipment to the oil & gas industry, has opened a new facility in Petaling Jaya with much larger space for manufacturing, warehousing, showroom, and employee training.
 - Last but by no means least, **AIG** has expanded and enhanced its shared services capabilities based in Malaysia, introducing high-value-added technologies to handle claims for security services and emerging cyber risks across Asia and Australasia, as well as hiring a team of local doctors to handle highly complex medical travel assistance for customers travelling anywhere in the world.

I hope that this gives you a flavor, Tun, of some of the exciting new initiatives of AMCHAM member companies in Malaysia, who continue to value Malaysia as an attractive investment destination due to its business-friendly regulatory environment, a strong pool of local talent, and cultural diversity.

We look forward to further investments over the coming year:

- For example, **ON Semiconductor** has finalized plans for a RM1 billion expansion in Negeri Sembilan, which will create an amazing 2,400 new jobs.
- I expect that some further announcements will be made soon - the recent Trade and Investment Mission to the United States by MITI Minister Datuk Darell Leiking has generated potential investments worth RM6.6 billion, mainly in key projects within the Electrical & Electronics and chemical industries.

I'd also like to highlight the latest 2018 version of the MY AMCHAM CARES booklet which has been placed on all of the tables. US companies, as part of their investment, deliver many robust CSR and programs that directly impact their immediate community as well as support the country's own development targets.

Our program has been growing from strength to strength as a platform for members to exchange best practices and think strategically about how to create sustainable CSR programs in Malaysia.

You'll see in the latest booklet that, much like the Midterm Review of the Eleventh Malaysia Plan, we have begun to track how our members' activities relate to Malaysia's progress towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Tun, thank you once again for your engagement with AMCHAM. Please be assured that our member companies and executive team look forward to continue engaging the government and to offer practical recommendations to develop policies that can support a strong and innovative business environment. We, like you, envisage a Malaysia that is equipped to embrace opportunities emerging through new technologies and to navigate through global uncertainties.

As we always remind our government counterparts, our aim is to conduct a productive two-way dialogue, and we always welcome the opportunity to work with the government on any areas where they have identified a need for private sector inputs.

I wish you all an excellent lunch. I very much look forward to hearing from our Prime Minister after lunch and to hear Tun's updates for the U.S. business community.