

# **WHY MALAYSIA**

**> YOUR PROFIT CENTRE IN ASIA**



# WELCOME TO MALAYSIA - A LAND OF OPPORTUNITIES

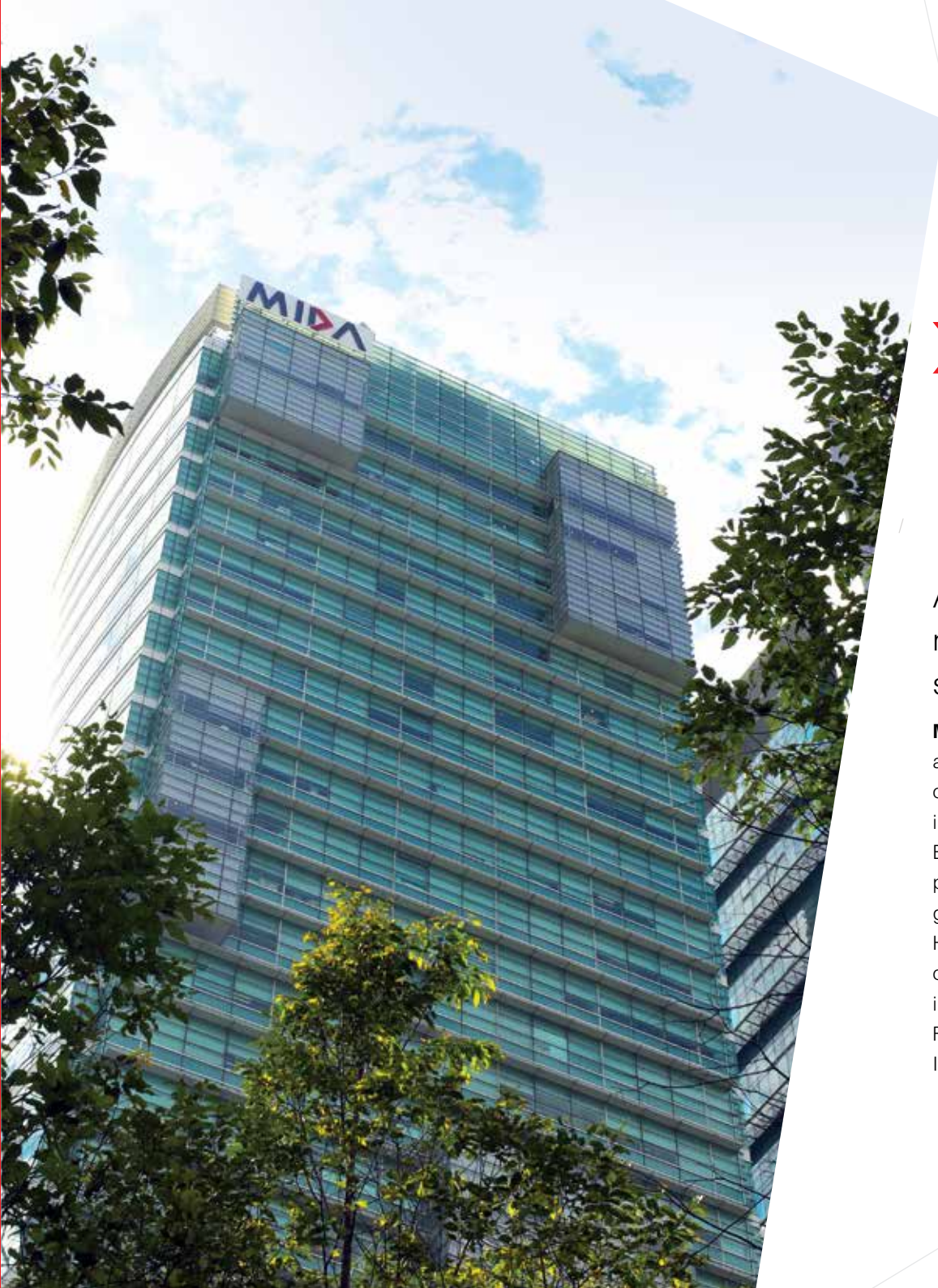
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- 5 Great Place for Work and Life**  
> Best Country to Live In
- 6 Business during COVID-19**  
> We Are Here to Assist

Disclaimer:  
MIDA has made every effort to ensure that all information is up-to-date and correct at the time of publishing. We shall not take any responsibility for any incorrect information or omission published in this publication.



GMT Flight time  
**6 Hours**  
(US Eastern Standard Time +13 Hours)





## > MIDA, YOUR FIRST POINT OF CONTACT FOR INVESTMENTS IN THE MANUFACTURING AND SERVICES SECTORS IN MALAYSIA.

As the primary contact point for your investment needs, **MIDA** makes starting up, rolling out and scaling up your company easy in Malaysia.

**MIDA** is the Government's principal investment promotion and development agency under the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) to oversee and drive investments into the manufacturing and services sectors in Malaysia. The establishment of MIDA in 1967 was hailed by the World Bank as "the necessary impetus for purposeful, positive and coordinated promotional action" for Malaysia's industrial development. Today, MIDA has grown to become a strong and dynamic organisation of over 700 employees. Headquartered in Kuala Lumpur Sentral, MIDA has 12 regional and 20 overseas offices. MIDA continues to be the strategic partner to businesses in seizing the opportunities arising from the technology revolution of this era. For more information, please visit [www.mida.gov.my](http://www.mida.gov.my) and follow us on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube channel.

# INVEST IN MALAYSIA

## > Home of Thriving Opportunities

Seeking greener pastures? Malaysia offers a cost-competitive, sustainable and conducive environment for your business to thrive. Invest in Malaysia today.

Malaysia lies just above the equator, right in the heart of South-East Asia. Strategically located between the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea, Malaysia is well serviced by all primary air and shipping lines. This coupled with the country's sustainable and solid economic foundation, comprehensive business ready environment, future-forward focus and dynamic skilled workforce have made Malaysia an attractive cost-competitive investment location in the region, and is fast becoming a preferred centre for shared services and leading technology industries.



“*Malaysia's economy remains resilient and rests on strong fundamentals. Its diversified economic structure, sound financial system, effective public health response and proactive macroeconomic policy support suggest that Malaysia will be able to ride out the storm better than many other countries.*”

*Richard Record,  
World Bank Lead Economist, Macroeconomics,  
Trade and Investments Global Practice (2020)*



# > Strategically Located

Malaysia is well-positioned in one of the fastest-growing economic regions in the world. The South-East Asia region has recorded average GDP growth of 5.3% per annum over the last 20 years.



## HEART OF SOUTH-EAST ASIA



**The average ASEAN real GDP growth in 2021 is forecast at 5.1%** (Economic Outlook Southeast Asia, China and India 2021, OECD)



**Centre of South-East Asia**  
Market Access of over 650 million people with combined GDP of US\$3.2 trillion (ASEANstats, 2020)



**Well-connected to major ports in Asia**  
Reaching Mumbai, India, within 6 hours and reaching Beijing, China, within 9 hours



**Next to one of the world's busiest shipping lanes**  
Straits of Malacca provides access to global supply chains via 2 key ports

## GATEWAY TO ASEAN AND BEYOND



**Malaysia is a market-oriented economy with 16 Free Trade Agreements**  
Creating potential market size of more than 4 billion people globally



**Lower cost of doing business**  
Almost 99% of products in ASEAN have zero tariffs



**Attract 31% of Global FDI**  
Global market size is estimated to attract 31% of Global FDI



**World's 3rd Largest Workforce**  
ASEAN has the world's third largest labour force and a growing middle class – a powerful engine for long term growth

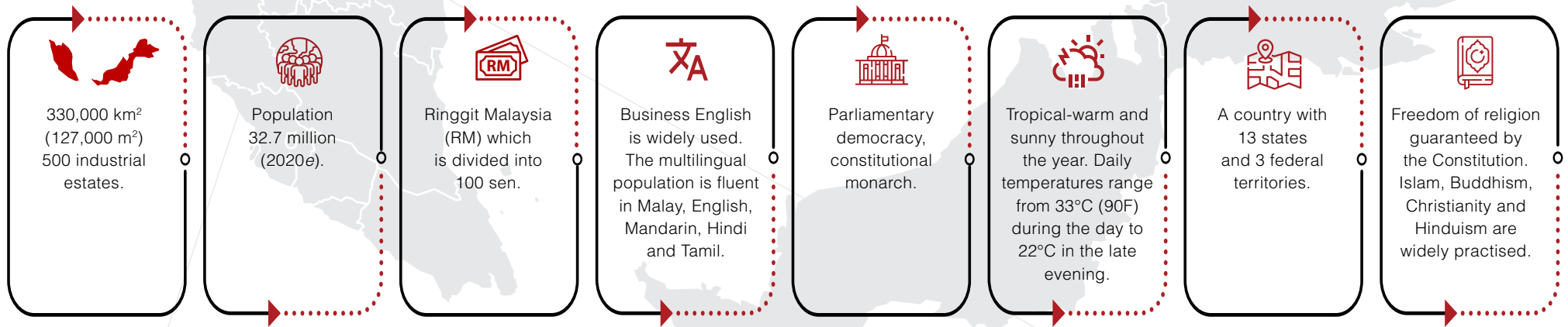


**Largest FDI inflow of any emerging market region – poised to become the world's largest single market by 2030**  
(UNCTAD's 2020 Investment Trends Monitor)



## > Secure Economic Foundations

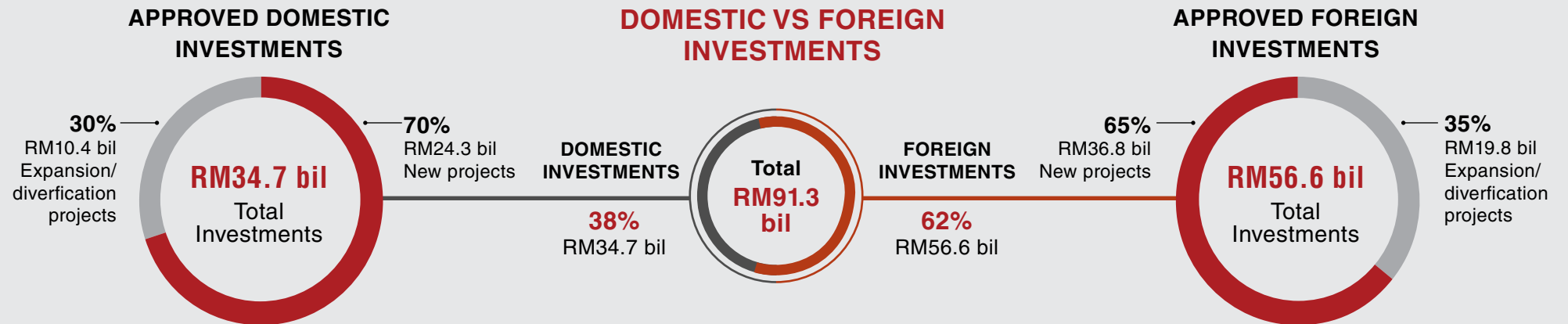
Malaysia has a highly-diversified economic and export structure, supportive labour market, low and stable inflation, a strong and well-capitalised financial sector and a healthy current account of the balance of payments.



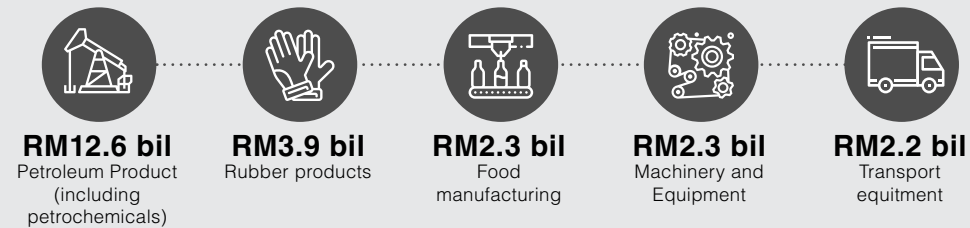
# > Diversified Economy

From a country once dependent on agriculture and primary commodities, Malaysia is today an export-driven diversified economy spurred on by high technology, knowledge-based and capital-intensive industries.

Our mature and integrated ecosystems developed over the decades nurtured a strong local supply chain that supports the long term growth of your business.



## TOP 5 DOMESTIC INVESTMENTS



## TOP 5 FOREIGN INVESTMENTS



Malaysia's manufacturing sector plays an important role in the global supply chain while domestic activities are well represented by the services sector, which has gained greater prominence in the past two decades.

We continue to be an attractive location for businesses across various industries. Malaysia's diversified sectors offer abundant opportunities for investors expanding into alternative markets.

Source: Malaysia Investment Performance Report, 2020



## › Extensive Trade Links, Lower Cost of Doing Business

Malaysia has already signed and implemented various free trade agreements (FTA), which include bilateral FTAs with Japan, Pakistan, India, New Zealand, Chile, Australia and Turkey. At the ASEAN level, Malaysia has regional FTAs through the ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (AFTA) with China, Korea, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and India.

This creates a potential market size of more than 4 billion people globally. Up to 98% of total products have 0% import duties under Malaysia's FTAs with ASEAN.

Lower trade barriers translate to lower costs of doing business. This grants companies operating in Malaysia preferential access to capture growth opportunities and immediate markets in one of the world's largest trading blocs.

## › Higher Investment Opportunities Through RCEP

Malaysia is among the 10 signatory countries of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the world's largest free trade agreement. RCEP represents 30% of the world's population and collectively contributes to 30% of global economic activities, as measured by GDP. This is expected to establish a strong framework for cooperation and contribute significantly to economic recovery for the economies involved. Given that the member countries of RCEP are among Malaysia's top 15 trading partners, this free trade agreement is expected to create a more liberal, facilitative and competitive investment environment that will provide improved investment facilitation and investor aftercare.



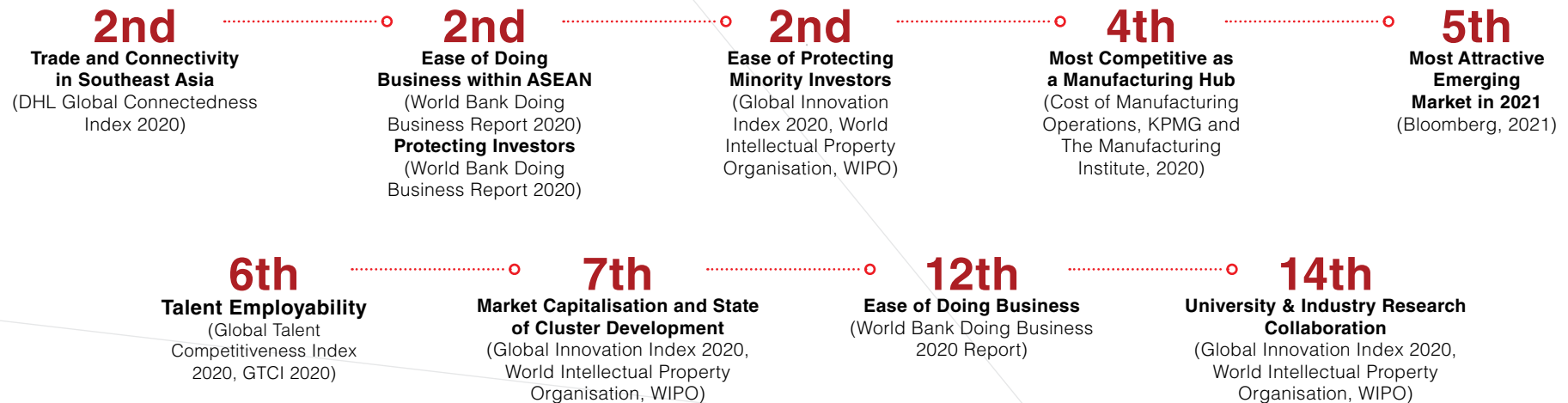
Scan here for more  
info on RCEP



# > Malaysia's Global Standing

Take a look at how Malaysia stacks up against global competition.

Malaysia is one of the fastest growing nation in the region. Ranked among the top emerging markets for investment and recognised for its protection of investors as well as its responsiveness to facilitating business needs, Malaysia is the offshore base from which your company can prosper.



# > Discover More Investment Opportunities

Over the past decades, the manufacturing sector has undergone momentous changes. Production efficiency and cost control are vital factors that enable the sector to deliver real results to your business. The Malaysian services industry also combines a multidisciplinary approach with in-depth, practical industry knowledge to meet challenges and seize opportunities. Explore the various competitive and comparative advantages in Malaysia's manufacturing and services sectors.



Scan here for more info on the Manufacturing Sector



# BUSINESS READY ENVIRONMENT

## > Conducive Business Ready Ecosystem

It is easy for you to start and scale-up your business smoothly in Malaysia. Malaysia's established financial and banking sectors, business-friendly policies, ready infrastructure and supportive government facilities make it straightforward for companies to set up operations here. The World Bank's Doing Business 2020 report ranked Malaysia in the top 12 out of 190 economies for ease of doing business.

Malaysia is well-positioned to serve as a central hub for worldwide trade. Our air transport infrastructure is among the best in the world. Our coastal ports provide direct maritime access in Asia to Singapore, China, as well as to Europe and the U.S.

We also offer investors a selection of secure trade corridors and industrial zones that regularly facilitate continual supply chain and business operations.

Our policies continue to be pro-business, prudent and pragmatic to create an environment that is safe, secure and scalable for the long term success of businesses here. This includes 100% equity ownership in the manufacturing and selected services sectors, competitive investment incentives and IP protection laws that conform with international standards.



# > Progressive Infrastructure, Excellent Connectivity

## Developed Industrial Parks

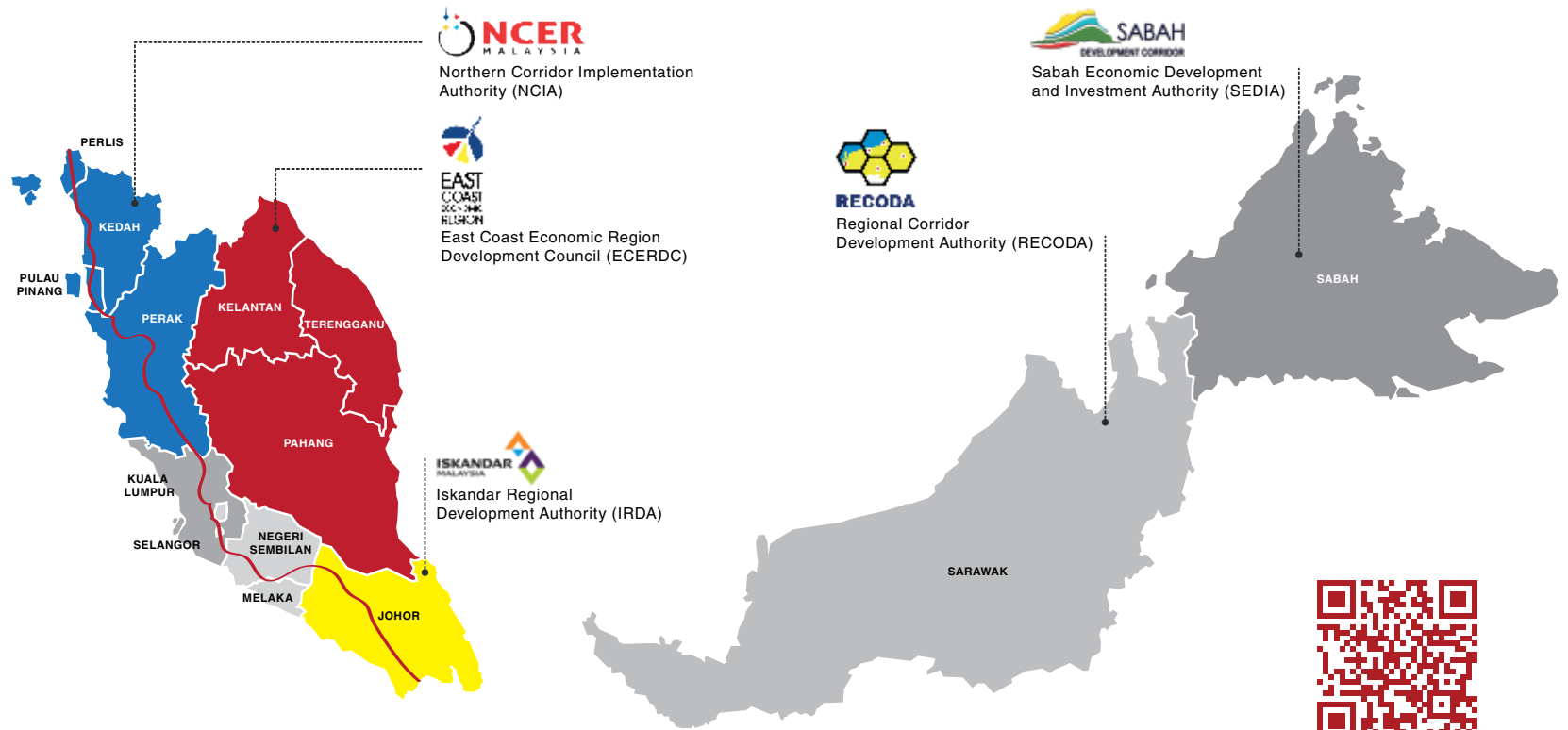
Malaysia is committed to continuously developing and upgrading its infrastructure. This has resulted in over 500 dedicated industrial parks, specialised industrial parks and free industrial zones, expanding telecommunication technologies, growing network of highways, efficient seaports and well-recognised international airports.

**500+**

Malaysia has over 500 industrial estates

**18**

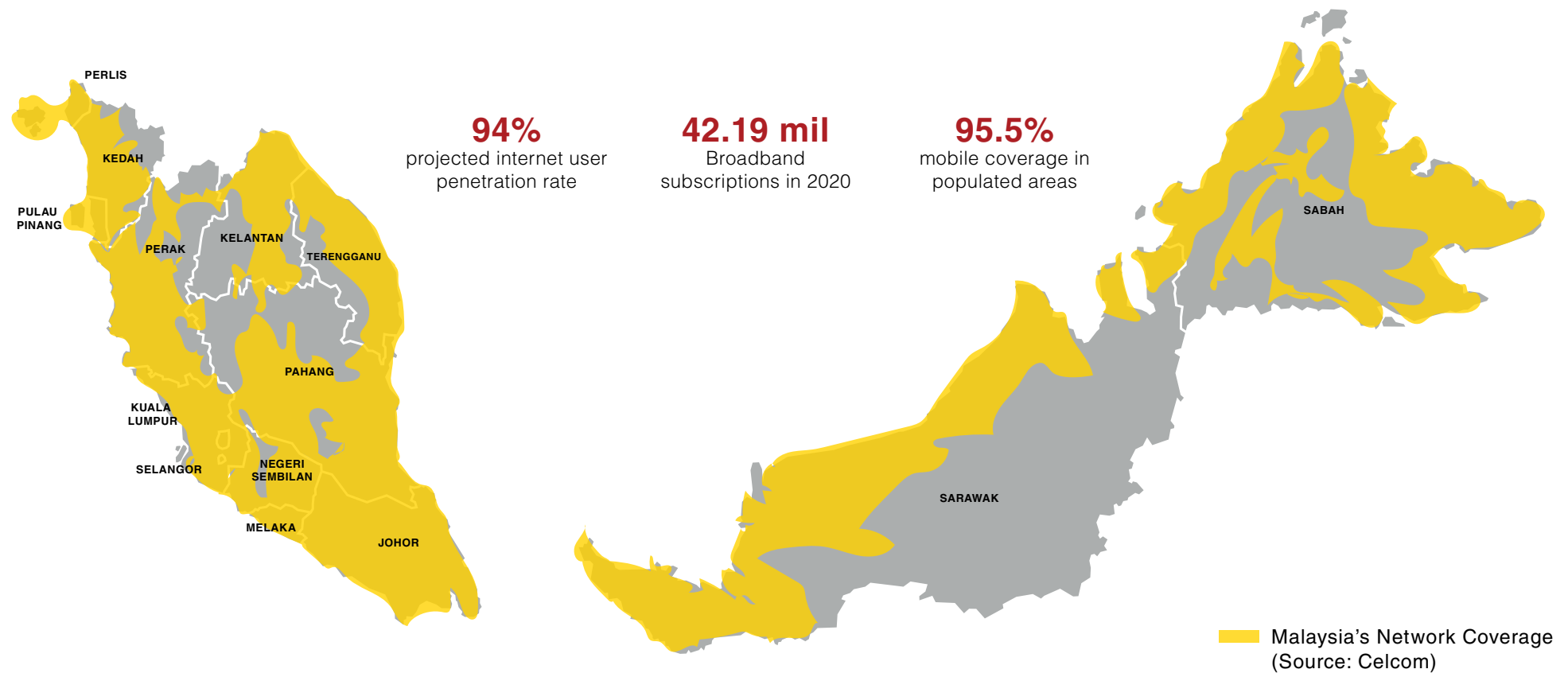
Malaysia has 18 Free Industrial Zones (FIZs)



View Infrastructural Map of Malaysia

## High-Tech Telecommunication

Malaysia's reliable, fast and affordable digital connectivity is a crucial factor that showcases our positive environment for digital transformation. Malaysia has high smartphone and mobile broadband penetration. Mobile broadband has improved in affordability and has wide 4G coverage (expected to reach 96.9% by end 2022).

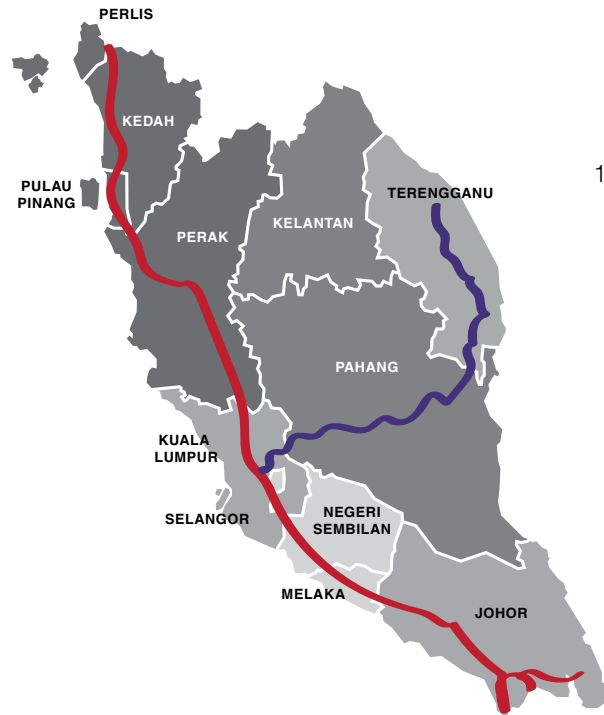






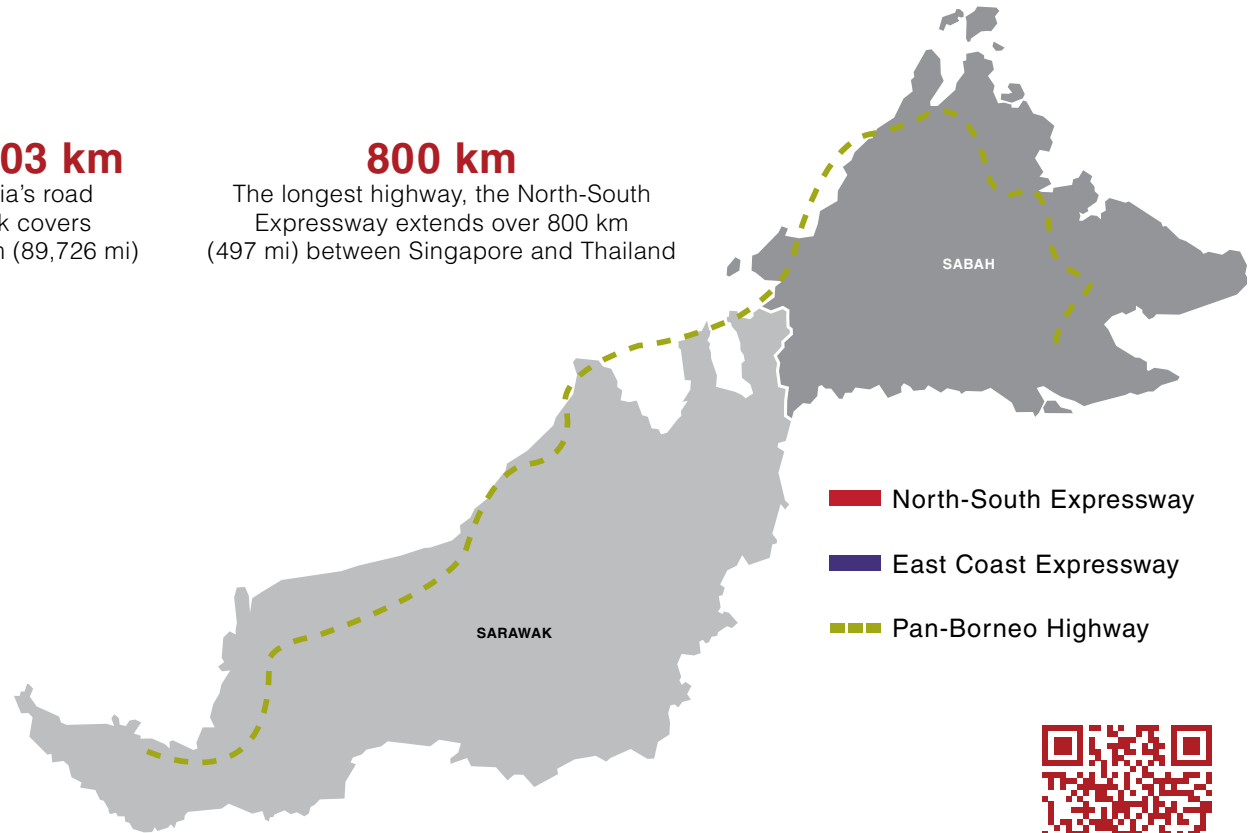
# Network of Highways

Peninsular Malaysia's network of well-maintained highways is a boon to industries. Every highway is equipped with advanced safety features such as a traffic flow monitoring system and road safety enforcement system.



**144,403 km**  
Malaysia's road network covers 144,403 km (89,726 mi)

**800 km**  
The longest highway, the North-South Expressway extends over 800 km (497 mi) between Singapore and Thailand



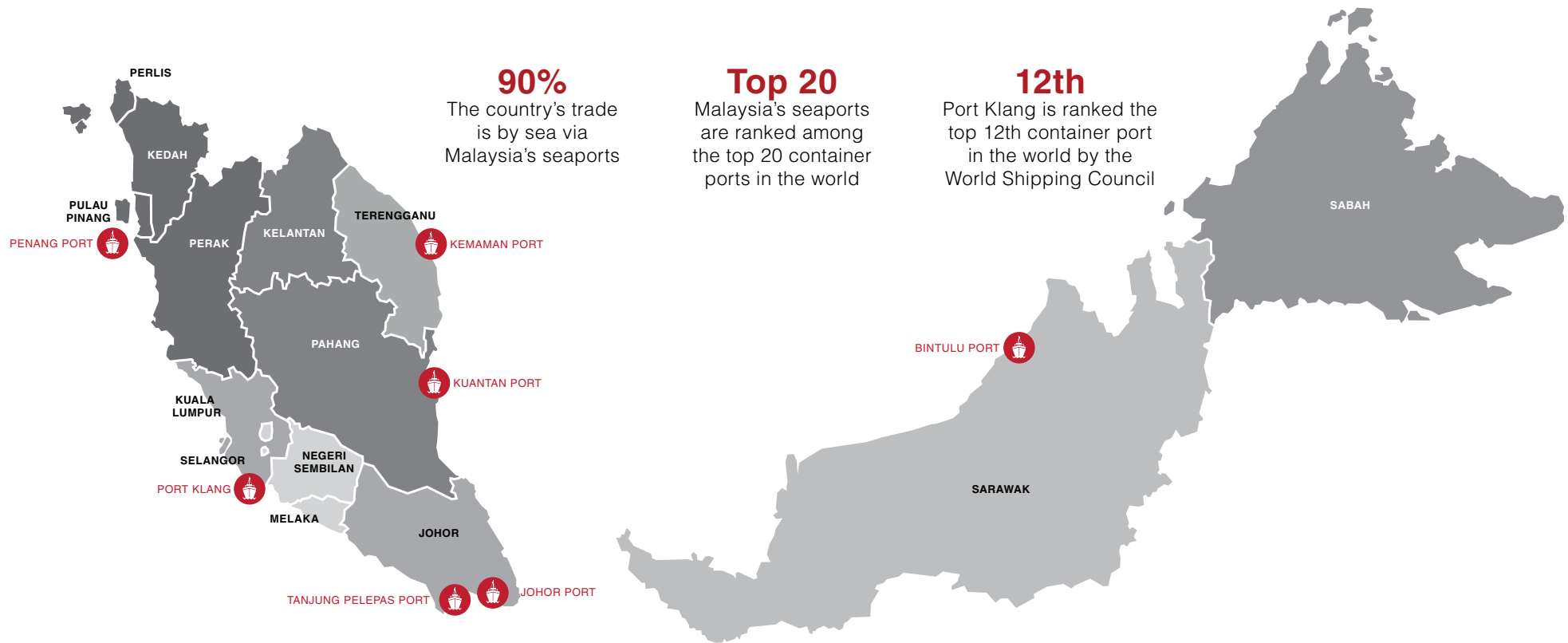
-  North-South Expressway
-  East Coast Expressway
-  Pan-Borneo Highway



View Infrastructural Map of Malaysia

## Efficient Seaports

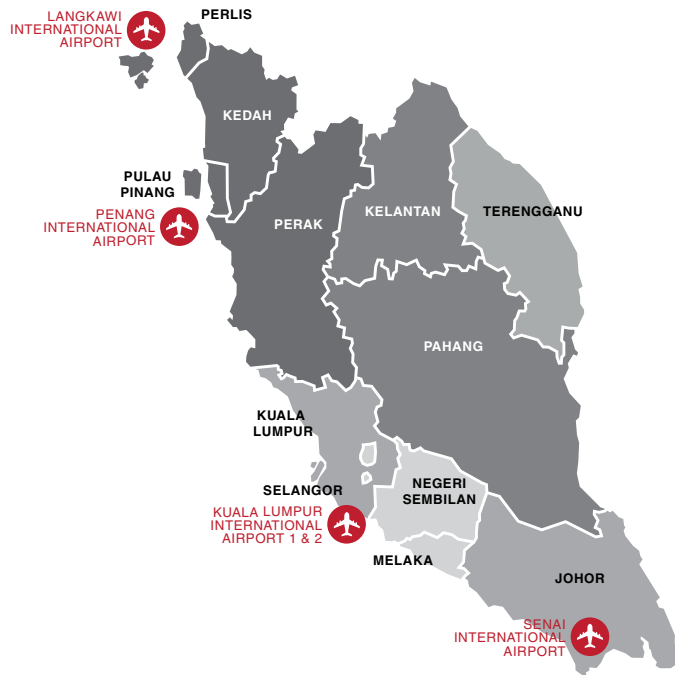
More than 90% of the country's trade is via Malaysia's seaports. Port Klang and the Port of Tanjung Pelepas (PTP) are ranked among the top 20 container ports in the world. Port Klang is ranked the top 12th container port in the world by the World Shipping Council. Port of Tanjung Pelepas is a regional transshipment hub.



# International Airports

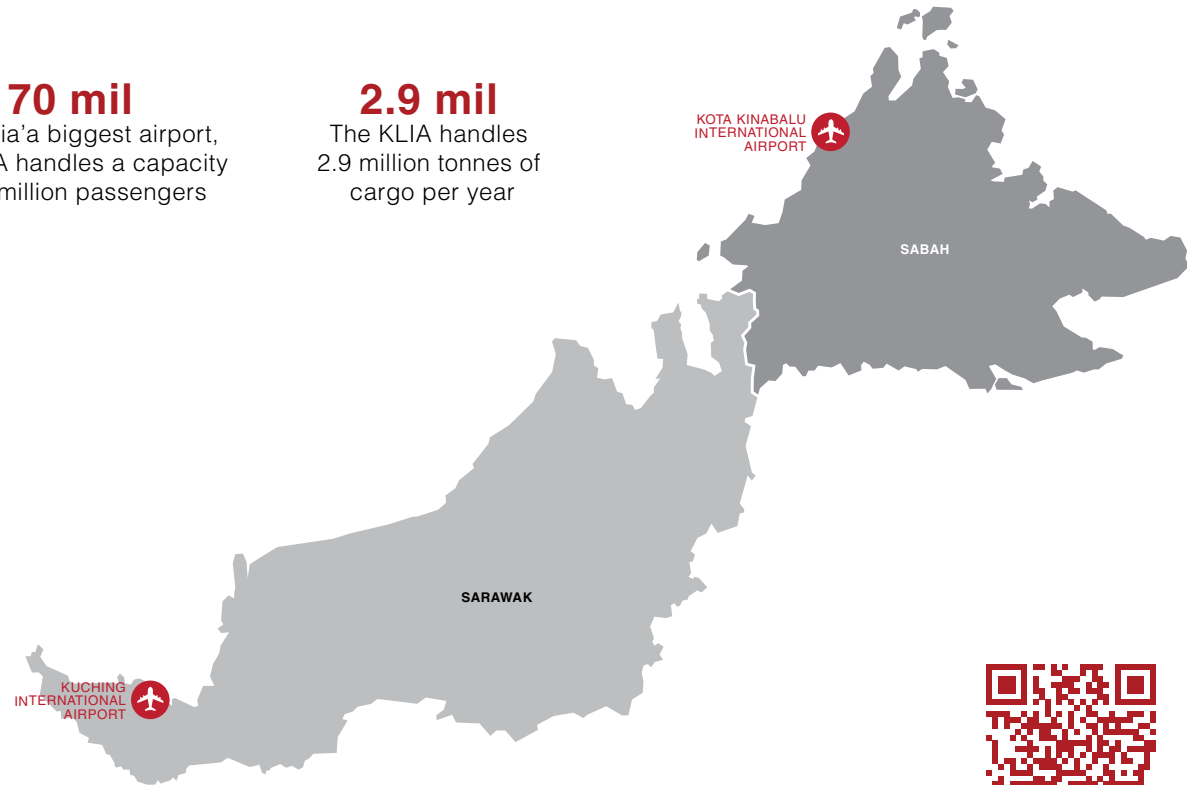
Malaysia has 6 international airports, 16 domestic and 18 airport aerodromes to accommodate growing passenger demand and facilitate major trade and aviation routes. The highly - advanced Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) in Sepang, Selangor has a current capacity of 70 million passengers and 2.9 million tonnes of cargo per year.

In the future, KLIA's expansion on 10,000 hectares of land is planned to accommodate up to 140 million passengers and 5.4 million tonnes of cargo per year.



**70 mil**  
Malaysia's biggest airport,  
the KLIA handles a capacity  
of 70 million passengers

**2.9 mil**  
The KLIA handles  
2.9 million tonnes of  
cargo per year



View Infrastructural  
Map of Malaysia



## › Malaysia's IP Protection Safeguards Innovation

The world's most innovative companies choose Malaysia due to our secure Intellectual Property (IP) protections which safeguard more than just their ideas or concepts. It protects their genuine business assets that are integral to the core services of the business and overall long-term viability. Malaysia's robust Intellectual Property (IP) laws will secure all your innovations.

From powering the cloud and billions of smart devices, Intel for example, creates value for its customers and stakeholders from their Malaysian Global Service Centre. It is used to undertake research and development activities for computing devices; and services activities relating to finance, human resources, information technology, procurement, manufacturing, logistics, warehousing and sales marketing services.

## › Intellectual Property (IP) Protection

Malaysia's IP laws are in conformance with international standards

- Member of the World Intellectual Property Protection Organisation (WIPO)
- Signatory of the Paris Convention and Berne Convention which govern IP rights
- Signatory of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of IP Rights (TRIP 8) under the WTO

Malaysia has signed Investment Guarantee Agreements (IGAs) with more than 60 countries.



Scan here for more  
info on MyIPO  
[www.myipo.gov.my](http://www.myipo.gov.my)



## > Intellectual Property



Design



Patents



Invention



Authorship



Law



Copyright



Protection



Brand

The US Chamber of Commerce's Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC), in its 7th Annual International Intellectual Property (IP) index - 2019, ranks Malaysia second in Southeast Asia.

With great changes in technologies and business operations, there is a growing need for global innovation to address many of the rising challenges. Countries that maximise the role of IP enable great progress in innovation and spur businesses in terms of productivity and technology advancement. In line with this, Malaysia is also fostering a vibrant R&D landscape through various initiatives including an incentive for IP development. Guidelines on this incentive can be found on MIDA website.

## > Liberal Equity Policy

Malaysia's liberal equity policy makes it easier for foreign companies to set up their business here to stay ahead. Since June 2003, foreign investors can hold 100% of the equity in all investments in new and expansion/diversification projects in the manufacturing sector and selected services sectors. Liberalised services sub-sectors include selected areas of health and social services, tourism services, transport services, business services and computer and related services.



Scan here for  
Forms & Guidelines

## > The Conducive Business Environment in Malaysia

The conducive business environment in Malaysia has made the country one of the world's top investment destinations for offshore manufacturing operations. Malaysia has to date attracted more than 5,000 foreign companies from more than 50 countries to establish their operations in the country. Many companies continue to expand and diversify operations in the country, reflecting ongoing confidence in Malaysia as a preferred site for their business ventures.



Scan here for more info  
on Services Sector

## > Convergence of Traditional Services Hubs

Today, Malaysia has attracted a hybrid of business models from Global/Regional Headquarters, Centers of Excellence (COEs) to Procurement and Distribution Hubs.

Malaysia holds many attractions for MNCs looking to tap into a strategic location within the Asia Pacific for their services operations to support the management of their regional or global supply chains.

### Approved Regional and Global Operations (as at December 2020)



**839**  
Projects



**100**  
Countries



**104,667**  
Employment



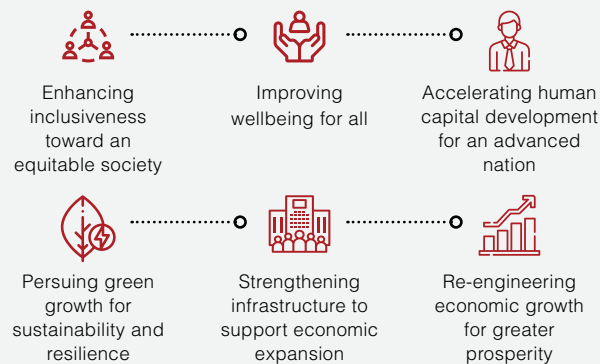
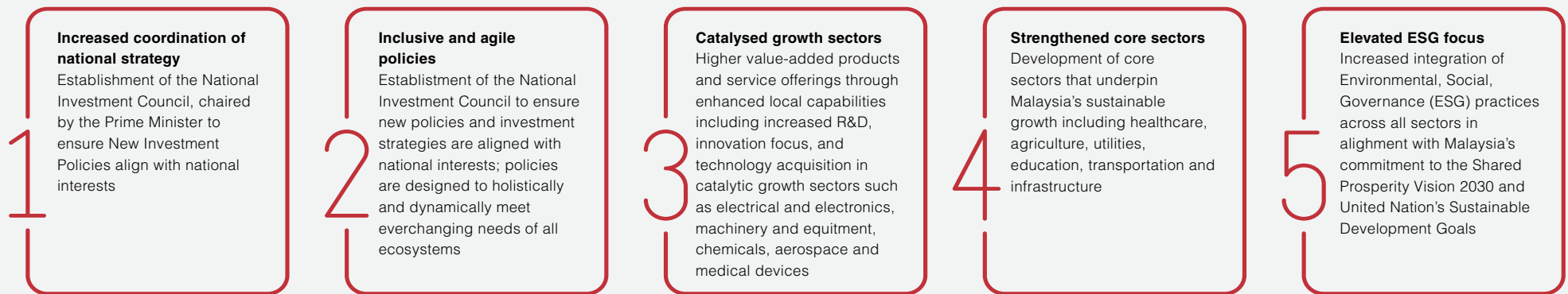
**USD14.3 bil**  
Investments

# > National Investment Aspirations (NIA)

The NIA is a forward-looking growth framework that will form the basis for comprehensive reforms of Malaysia's investment policies. It will focus on coherence and cohesiveness, with these aspirations being reflected across all national policy documents and initiatives related to investment, including the new Industrial

Masterplan and the 12th Malaysia Plan. It plays an important role in revitalising Malaysia's investment climate, attract high quality investments into the country and create high income jobs, particularly in a post-COVID era.

## 5 Core Parameters Framing the NIA



The NIA is expected to propel long term growth for Malaysia through the flow of sustainable quality investment in new and complex growth areas. Given its decades of investment promotion and facilitation track record, MIDA will assume a more prominent role in this initiative as part of institutional reforms and in line with the NIA mandate for better policy coherence.

### 12th Malaysia Plan, 2021-2025 (12MP)

The 12MP is the first phase of Malaysia's Shared Prosperity Vision 2030 (SPV 2030) towards restructuring Malaysia into a knowledge-based economy that achieves sustainable growth across income groups, ethnicities, regions and supply chains.

The 12MP's policies, programmes and initiatives revolve around three main dimensions, namely; Economic Empowerment, Environmental Sustainability and Social Reengineering. These dimensions will complement each other towards realising the country's development model of Shared Prosperity. They are also in line with Malaysia's efforts to attain the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Updates and further information can be found in the Official Portal of the Economic Planning Unit at [www.epu.gov.my](http://www.epu.gov.my).



# FUTURE FORWARD ECONOMY

## > Technologically Developed Country

Malaysia is ramping up efforts to nurture a future forward economy. As one of the most technologically developed countries among industrialising nations in the ASEAN region, Malaysia's persistent drive to engage modern technologies proves to be a great advantage to investors in Malaysia. The country's aspiration to be a digitally-driven, high income nation and a regional leader in digital economy is encapsulated in MyDIGITAL – Malaysia Digital Economy Blueprint. Among other main initiatives

are the National Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) Policy, Industry4WRD, a Digital Investment Office, National Digital Network (JENDELA) and Malaysia's Lighthouse Programme. These aim to accelerate digital transformation and advance industry transition towards the future of manufacturing by deploying technology, transforming the workforce and scaling an end-to-end supply chain. Investors should strike while the iron is hot and capitalise on these growing opportunities.

## > Malaysia's Global Standing

Take a look at how Malaysia stacks up against the global competition.

Our efforts in attracting investments and driving productivity and innovation through economic and regulatory reforms have received worldwide recognition from various international institutions.

**2nd in  
Asia**  
World Digital  
Competitiveness  
Ranking 2020  
(IMD)

**7th in  
Asia Pacific**  
Network Readiness Index 2020  
(Portulans Institute)

**11th**  
Emerging Start-up Ecosystem  
(Global Startup Ecosystem  
Report 2020, Startup Genome)

**8th**  
Most Innovative Country  
among Asian Economies  
(Global Innovation Index 2020,  
World Intellectual Property  
Organisation, WIPO)

**14th**  
University and Industry  
Research Collaboration  
(Global Innovation Index 2020,  
World Intellectual Property  
Organisation, WIPO)

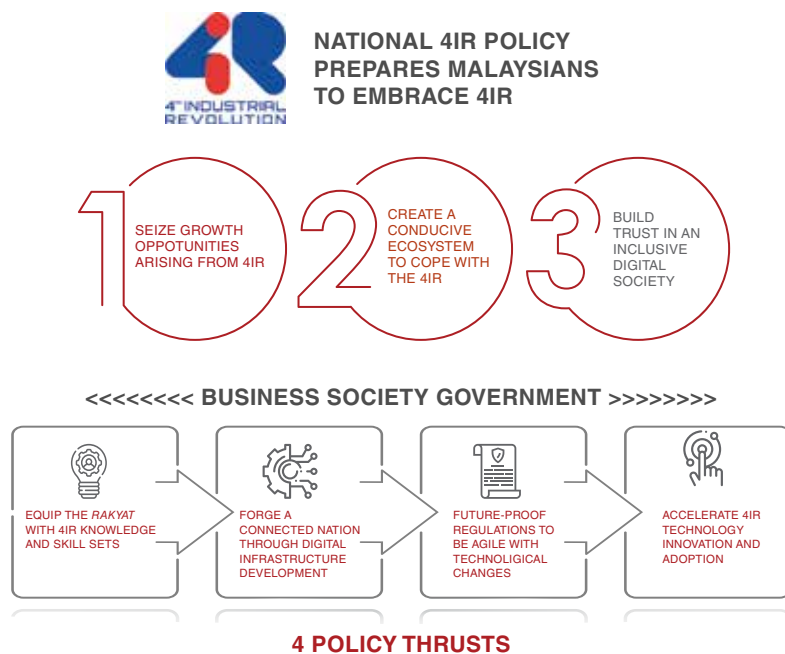


# > National Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) Policy

## Moving Further Ahead with 4IR

Building upon the foundation laid down by the Industry4WRD framework, Malaysia has unveiled the National 4IR Policy as a broader overarching national policy that drives coherence in transforming the socioeconomic development of the country through ethical use of 4IR technologies.

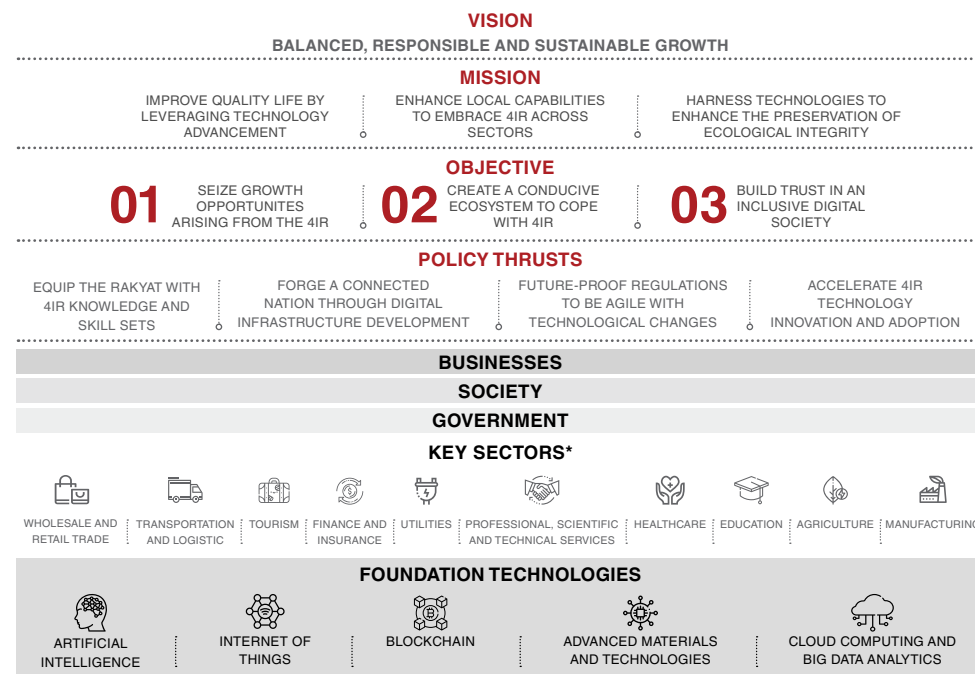
The National 4IR Policy is aligned with MyDIGITAL Blueprint and also the National Policy on Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTIN) 2021-2030 that aims to develop Malaysia as a high-tech nation by 2030.



## Malaysia: Whole-of-Nation Approach to 4IR

The National 4IR Policy is important to enhance policy coherence in enabling sustainable resource optimisation and implementation coordination towards the strategic direction outlined in Malaysia's Shared Prosperity Vision 2030 as well as our commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals.

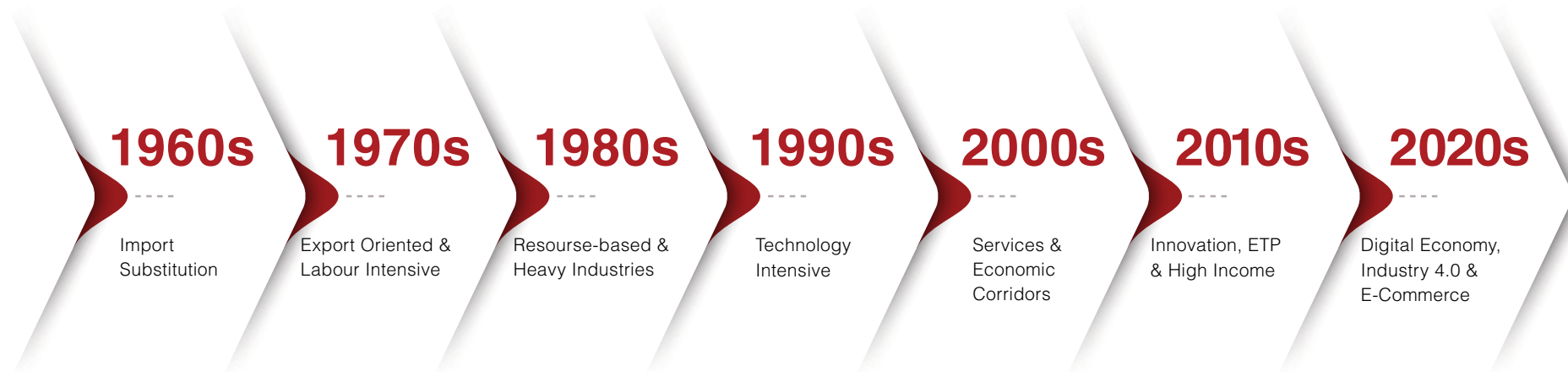
To accelerate the adoption of these technologies while building local capability to innovate new solutions, the National 4IR Policy pushes for the creation of an even more conducive ecosystem especially in terms of talent, infrastructure readiness, regulatory approach and technological capability.



\*Potential 4IR applications are also identified for the six supporting sectors, these are: construction, real estates, mining and quarrying, arts, entertainment and recreation services, information and communication services as well as administrative and support services.

# > Nurturing Tomorrow's Industries for the Fourth Industrial Revolution

## Transforming Malaysia's Industrial Landscape Since 1960



Malaysia has implemented the National Policy on Industry 4.0 – Industry4WRD to develop a smarter and stronger manufacturing sector driven by people, processes and technology. As a clear strategic direction for the country, Industry4WRD marks Malaysia's shift to fully embrace Industry 4.0, with smart manufacturing and eventually leading to the introduction of smart cities, smart grids, and smart solutions.

As companies transition to Industry 4.0 to stay competitive globally, the talent pool needs to be upskilled as well. A business's wealth is in individuals who drive it.

Hence, the Government has placed emphasis on technical and vocational education and training (TVET) to reduce the gap in supply and demand for skills as well as to develop industry-ready talents.

According to the Malaysia Education Blueprint, there will be a demand for an additional 1.3 million TVET employees. As part of its talent initiative, MIDA launched an Apprenticeship programme in collaboration with the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM) and Ministry of Education (MOE).

## > Framework Industry4WRD

### The Vision

Malaysia's vision for the manufacturing sector in the next 10 years:

- Strategic partner for smart manufacturing and related services in Asia Pacific.
- Primary destination for high-tech industry.
- Total solutions provider for advanced technology.

## National Goals & Targets

These goals and targets support the national vision for the transformation of the manufacturing industry. They assist Malaysia's progression in improving performance, enhancing technology capacity and skills, driving change to a highly experienced workforce, and expanding the contribution of the sector to the national economy.

### The target for 2025, developed from 2016 baseline figure:

#### Labour Productivity Growth

Productivity of the manufacturing industry per person

From RM106,647 to increase by

**30%**

#### Manufacturing contribution to Economy

Absolute contribution in Ringgit Malaysia (RM) terms from the manufacturing sector to the national economy

From RM254 bil to

**RM392 bil**

#### Innovation Capacity

Global Innovation Index ranking

From #35 to Top

**30**

#### High-skilled Jobs

Number of high-skilled workers in the manufacturing sector

From 18% to

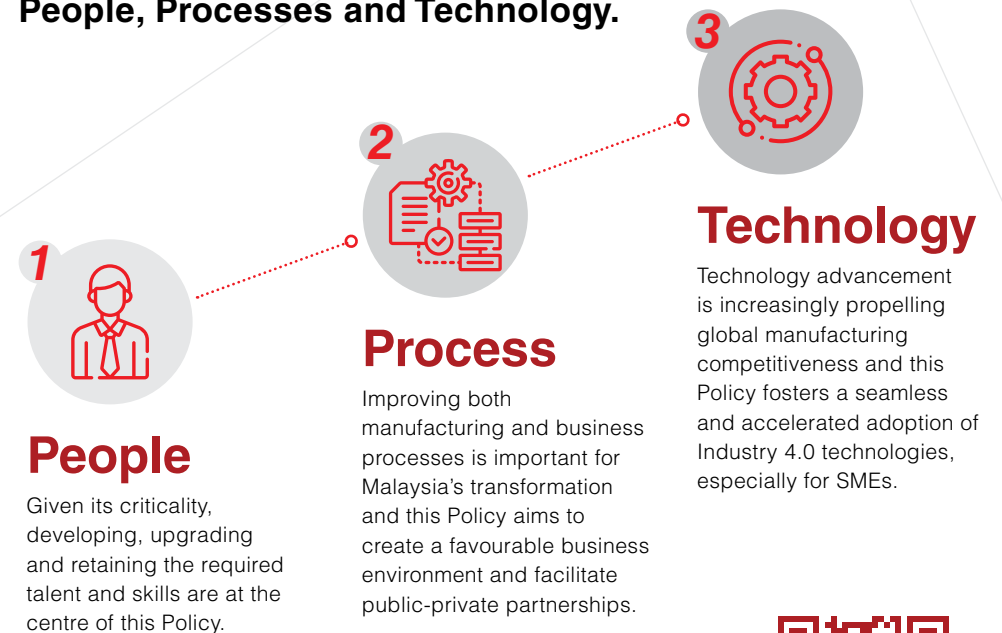
**35%**

## > Malaysia is Gearing Towards Industry 4.0

Industry4WRD serves as the framework for manufacturing and manufacturing-related services on their Industry 4.0 journey. It lays out 13 methods for Malaysia to shift upwards over the next decade.

This journey is anchored on three factors:

### People, Processes and Technology.



Scan here for more info on Industry4WRD

## > Malaysia Digitally Powers Your Business

MIDA is steadily making efforts to assist and familiarise local industry players in implementing Industry 4.0 into their operations. Engagements include a jointly organised MIDA-IME Industry 4.0 Showcase with the IME Group of Organisers (with the support of Dassault Systèmes and Robert Bosch) at its headquarters. The showcase demonstrated a wide range of related technologies such as simulation, additive manufacturing, system integration, digitisation, cloud computing, Internet of Things (IoT), and data analytics.



Bosch, a leading global supplier of technology plans to build a manufacturing facility in Penang focusing on semiconductor components and sensor testing. They would take advantage of the latest Industry 4.0 initiatives. Around 400 associates are expected to work at the new facility scheduled to begin in 2021.

The modern facility will sit on approximately 100,000 sqm of land and will primarily focus on the final testing of components manufactured at Bosch Automotive Electronics in Dresden, Germany.



“ With the long-term forecasts for growth of semiconductor component quantities, coupled with the front-end production in Bosch’s Dresden facility in Germany, capacity expansion is required for the back-end production, which is the final testing phase of semiconductors and sensors. This new site is also intended to strengthen the matured eco-system for the semiconductor industry here in Penang ”

*Simon Song,  
Managing Director, Bosch Malaysia*



## > Malaysia's Digital Free Trade Zone (DFTZ)

Elevated sector efficiency and accelerated development capacities are transforming Malaysia into a premier services provider for advanced technologies.

The Digital Free Trade Zone (DFTZ) is an initiative that offers both physical and digital zones to help SMEs capitalise on the exponential growth expedited by the combination of the web economy and cross-border e-commerce. DFTZ expands Malaysia's e-commerce roadmap, which aims to increase e-commerce growth and increase its contribution to GDP to RM211 billion (approximately US\$48 billion) per year.

Under the National e-Commerce Strategic Roadmap, MIDA has been mandated as the lead agency to facilitate the transformation of Malaysia into a regional e-fulfilment hub.

### **DFTZ aims to:**

- Help SMEs to export their products globally with ease.
- Enable global marketplaces to source from Malaysian manufacturers/sellers.
- Make Malaysia the regional e-fulfilment hub for global brands to reach ASEAN buyers.
- Nurture an ecosystem to drive innovation in e-commerce and internet economy.

## > National Digital Infrastructure Plan (Jendela)

Launched in 2020, Jendela is a RM21 billion national digital infrastructure plan designed to steer Malaysia towards greater digital connectivity by boosting the efficiency of the national infrastructure and optimising spectrum usage. The plan aims to provide the foundation for comprehensive and quality broadband coverage, and prepare the country to adopt the 5G technology.

## > 5G in Malaysia: Enabling Business Growth

Malaysia's plans for the commercialisation of 5G makes the country one of the pioneers in the ASEAN region to implement 5G. It would not only increase speed and connectivity; it is an economic imperative that holistically influences the quality of life, and business, including SMEs.

The Government is encouraging the development of a reliable 5G ecosystem and stimulate the adoption of 5G use by industries and the public sector across areas such as automotive, manufacturing, education, agriculture, tourism and media.



## > Shaping Malaysia's Digital Investment Landscape

The Malaysia Digital Economy Blueprint (2021-2030) or MyDIGITAL has been introduced to charter the direction, strategies, initiatives and targets to lead the growth of the digital economy. Among the key business-related targets include an investment of RM70 billion in digitalisation, number of start-ups to increase to 5,000, a 30 per cent increase in productivity in all sectors and a 22.6 per cent contribution of the digital economy to Malaysia's GDP.

The National Council of Digital Economy and Fourth Industrial Revolution (MED4IR) chaired by the Prime Minister endorsed the establishment of the Digital Investment Office (DIO) which is entrusted with facilitating digital investments in Malaysia. The role of DIO is consistent with MyDIGITAL and the National Investment Aspirations, guided by the essence of the Shared Prosperity Vision (SPV) 2030.

The DIO is a fully-digital collaborative platform between MIDA and the Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC) to coordinate and facilitate all digital investments. The objective of this endeavour is not only to create awareness on digital investments in the country but to also strengthen the coordination among all Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) in promoting and attracting new investments in this fast-evolution segment.



Scan here for more  
info on DIO  
[www.heartofdigitalasean.my](http://www.heartofdigitalasean.my)



*Malaysia received a top score of 10 for its high smartphone and mobile broadband penetration. It is also impressive that Malaysia has improved the affordability of mobile broadband, which is relatively good compared to other adopters and also achieved a two-point jump in 4G coverage over last year. Besides the more affordable mobile broadband, several other GCI indicators relating to the user experience also show improvement, namely e-Government, customer services, Internet use, and download speeds.*



*Global Connectivity Index 2019*



# DYNAMIC SKILLED WORKFORCE

## > Industry Ready Talent

Malaysia's talent pool of trainable, well-educated, multilingual and diverse workforce is the foundation of our economic growth. Malaysia has 20 public and over 50 private tertiary institutions, in addition to over 1,400 technical and vocational education and training colleges (TVET) that have been established under different ministries to support the growth of the talent pool in Malaysia. The labour force in Malaysia is largely dominated by a young demographic between the ages of 25 to 29 years, comprising 18% of the total population or 2.8 million persons. This is followed by the age groups of 30 to 34 years and 35 to 29 accounting for 15.8% and 13.5% respectively. (Source: Labour Force Survey Report, Malaysia, 2020, DOSM)

Backed by the Government's continued support of human resource development in all sectors, the quality of Malaysia's labour force is one of the very best in the region. The average Malaysian can speak at least two or three languages. English proficiency levels are high, and school leavers going into the work market have at least 11 years of formal education.

The Malaysian Education Blueprint 2015-2025 promotes collaborations between universities and industries. It allows the industrial sectors to lead curriculum design as well as partner with initiatives such as apprenticeships, hands-on training, real-life simulations and specialised employer training programmes.

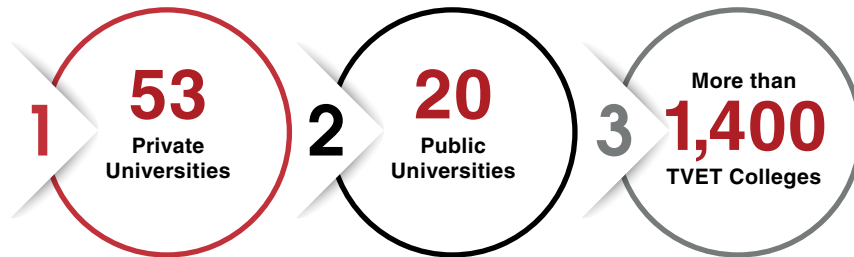
Malaysia is also preparing the new generation with the necessary skillsets for future jobs. The Education Blueprint 2013-2015 (Pre-school to Post-Secondary Education) is a roadmap to strengthen the STEM's delivery processes whereby students are exposed to basic programming and will be introduced to robotic, artificial intelligence, and computer science subjects.



Download  
Malaysia Education  
Blueprint 2013 - 2025



## > Malaysia Significantly Invests in Education



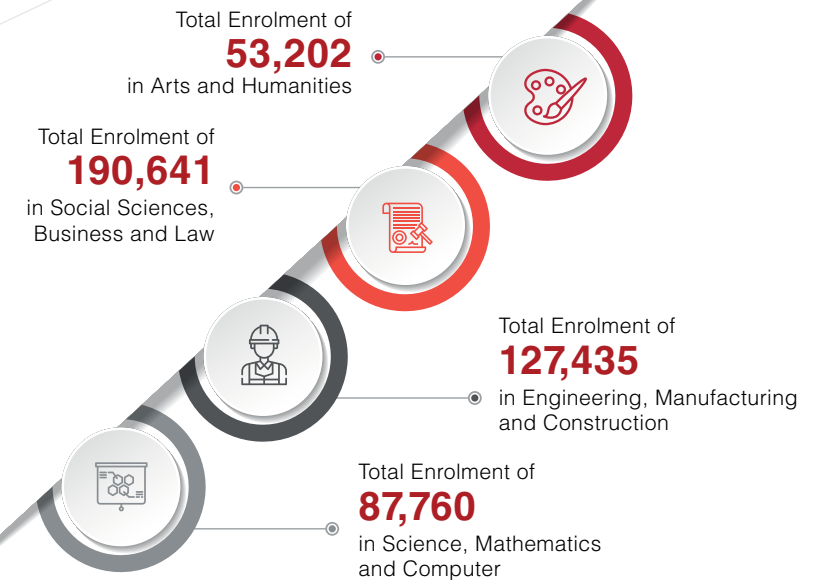
Malaysia ranks 1st in total public expenditure on education (% to GDP) among ASEAN countries according to The International Monetary Fund (2020). Ministry of Education was the biggest recipient in recent budget allocations, with a focus on enhancing learning institutions nationwide and prioritising TVET centres.

The governments' efforts at developing industry ready talent is reflected in Malaysia's improved ranking in the Global Talent Competitiveness Index 2020 (GTCI 2020), a report by INSEAD University, Google and Adecco. Malaysia moved up two spots to 26th among 88 countries and ranked 6th globally for Employability.

## > High Priority on Education

Malaysia is an upper middle-income country with a well-developed education system. Education and training are accorded high priority in national development under Malaysia's five-year development plans. The quality of Malaysia's workforce is one of the best in the region. Total enrolment in public institutions of higher education is estimated at over 500,000 with an increasing focus on the science and technical disciplines.

### Enrolment at Public Universities by Field of Study



Source: Quick Facts 2020, Ministry of Education



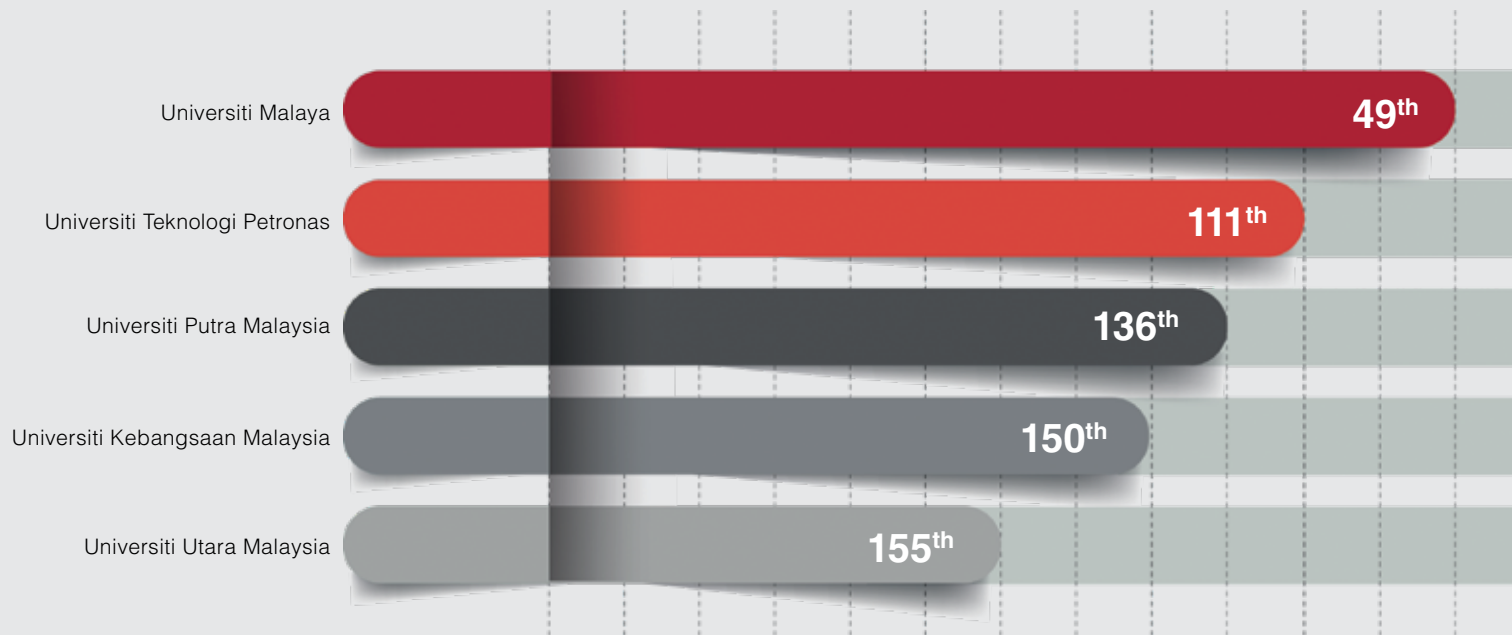
## > Robust Private Sector Support in Education

The private sector has also set up educational institutions to supplement the government's efforts to generate a larger pool of professionals and semi-professionals.

Various private colleges in Malaysia offer degree programmes on a twinning basis with overseas institutions of higher learning, while foreign universities such as

University of Southampton Malaysia, University of Monash Malaysia, University of Nottingham Malaysia, Newcastle University Medicine Malaysia, Curtin University in Sarawak, University of Reading Malaysia, University of Heriot Watt Malaysia, University of Swinburne Sarawak and Xiamen University Malaysia have set up branch campuses in the country. Educational institutions in Malaysia generate a large pool of professionals with degrees and post-graduate qualifications.

### Internationally Ranked Universities



The Times Higher Education's (THE) Asia University Rankings 2021 featured 15 of Malaysia's public institutions. Universiti Malaya made it to the top 50 institutions in the region for the fourth consecutive year. The other universities included Universiti Teknologi Petronas, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and Universiti Utara Malaysia.

Source: Times Higher Education's (THE) Asia University Rankings 2021

## › Development of Industrial Training

The Human Resource Growth Fund (HRDF) was set up to encourage training in the private sector. Companies in the manufacturing and service industries which contribute to this fund are eligible to use grants to bear the costs incurred in training their labour force. The National Vocational Training Council under the Ministry of Human Resources coordinates the planning and development of a comprehensive system of vocational and industrial training programmes for all training providers. It also continuously develops the National Occupational Skills Standards (NOSS). To date, there are more than 800 NOSS covering certificate, diploma and advanced diploma qualifications.

As an example, Penang Skills Development Centre (PSDC) is among the notable TVET institutions to address the gap in knowledge on new technologies, heavy cost of equipment and provides a consistent supply of talent. It's Precision Machining and Industry 4.0 Centre of Excellence offers better understanding on technical-related subjects and leads the charge in preparing industries to adopt new technologies by providing the right platform for learning, training and development. PSDC has also collaborated with the German-Malaysia Institute (GMI) to offer a German Dual Vocational Training (GDVT) which combines 30% theoretical training and 70% practical training at a host company – contributing to nurturing a multi-skilled, industry-ready workforce.

Meanwhile, Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) is also an example of higher learning institutes that contributes to the TVET initiative in the country. UMP has obtained a distinguished 5-Star total score honour from the QS Globe College Rankings (WUR) 2020 and aims to produce future-proof talents.



“ Besides the increasing number of public training institutions such as technical schools, polytechnics, industrial training institutes and skills development centres to meet the growing requirements of the industrial sector, collaborative efforts between the Malaysian government, enterprises and foreign governments have resulted in the establishment of several advanced skills training institutes such as the German-Malaysian Institute, Malaysia France Institute, Japan Malaysia Technical Institute, British Malaysia Institute and Malaysian Spanish Institute. ”

*Professor Dr Wan Azhar Wan Yusoff  
UMP Vice-Chancellor (2019)*





# GREAT PLACE FOR WORK AND LIFE

## > Best Country to Live In

While your business may lead you to Malaysia, we understand that it takes a whole lot more to feel at home. Malaysia is a melting pot of diverse cultures and among the most welcoming and hospitable places in the world to work and live. Careers are central to a good lifestyle. But life is also about family, friends, education, health and leisure.

In the Expat Insider 2021 survey, Malaysia was ranked 4th as the best destination for expatriates to live and work. It also ranked above the global average in every criteria such as Ease of Settling In and Cost of Living Index. Additionally, in HSBC's Expat Explorer survey, the world's largest and longest running study of expat life, Malaysia was ranked among the top 20 best countries in the world to live in, and notably ranked 7th for its cultural, open and welcoming communities.

One of the country's most distinctive features is its rich diversity of cultures, a heritage derived from its ethnic mix of some of the world's oldest civilisations. This potpourri of race and culture has enabled Malaysians to speak at least two, and even three, languages - Malay (the national language), English, Mandarin, Tamil and other Asian languages. Living in such a cosmopolitan environment, Malaysians are warm, friendly people and easily accept foreigners into their circle of friends. In Malaysia, not only are there abundant business opportunities, you can expect unique, colourful experiences and lasting friendships.



## > World-Class Healthcare Services in Malaysia

Malaysia remains among the top 10 retirement destinations in the 2021 International Global Retirement Index by International Living. Among reasons cited was Malaysia's low cost of living, temperate weather as well as affordable healthcare. Our world-class healthcare services are fully equipped with modern and sophisticated infrastructure.

It is easy to get an appointment to see a specialist here. It is a simple process of registering at a hospital and waiting in line to see the doctor of your choice.

Malaysia recorded 1.26 million healthcare tourist arrivals in 2019. This is an indication that the country is a leading choice for foreign patients seeking medical treatment abroad. The nation has bagged many accolades including winning the fourth successive 'Medical Travel Destination of the Year' award by the International Medical Travel Journal (IMTJ) Medical Travel Awards 2020.

In Malaysia, locals and tourists are treated by some of the most highly trained doctors and healthcare professionals in the region. The Joint Commission International (JCI), which is recognised as the world's most trusted name in accreditation, acknowledges the available talent in the country. In 2021, Datuk Dr. Jacob Thomas became the first Malaysian to be appointed as JCI's Chairman.



“ I think there is nothing more important than making sure the patients that come to our hospitals are safe. One way to ensure that is to look at patient safety, quality of care, and looking at outcomes. All this happens when you are accredited by one of many international accrediting bodies. ”

*Datuk Dr. Jacob Thomas,  
Chairman of the Joint Commission International (JCI),  
2021*

## > Malaysia Healthcare - Quality, Accessible & Affordable Medical Care

“Malaysia is one of the world’s leading medical value destinations, where patients can realise up to 80% savings on a wide range of procedures and treatments in first-class hospitals and clinics.”

Patients Without Borders (2020)



## > Comfortable and Affordable Housing

There is a wide selection of comfortable housing in Malaysia. According to a survey on expatriate living costs by the Malaysian International Chamber of Commerce & Industry, monthly rentals for accommodation can range from as low as RM2,500 – RM3,800 for a furnished 3-bedroom condominium in the suburbs of Kuala Lumpur to approximately RM15,000 for a luxury bungalow in a posh neighbourhood nearer to the city.

### Monthly rentals

**RM700 - RM40,000/ USD170 - USD9,688**

for a furnished 3-bedroom condominium in the suburbs of Kuala Lumpur

### Monthly rentals

**RM4,000 - RM70,000 / USD968 - USD16,953**

for a luxury bungalow in a posh neighbourhood nearer to the city

Source: [www.propertyguru.com.my](http://www.propertyguru.com.my)

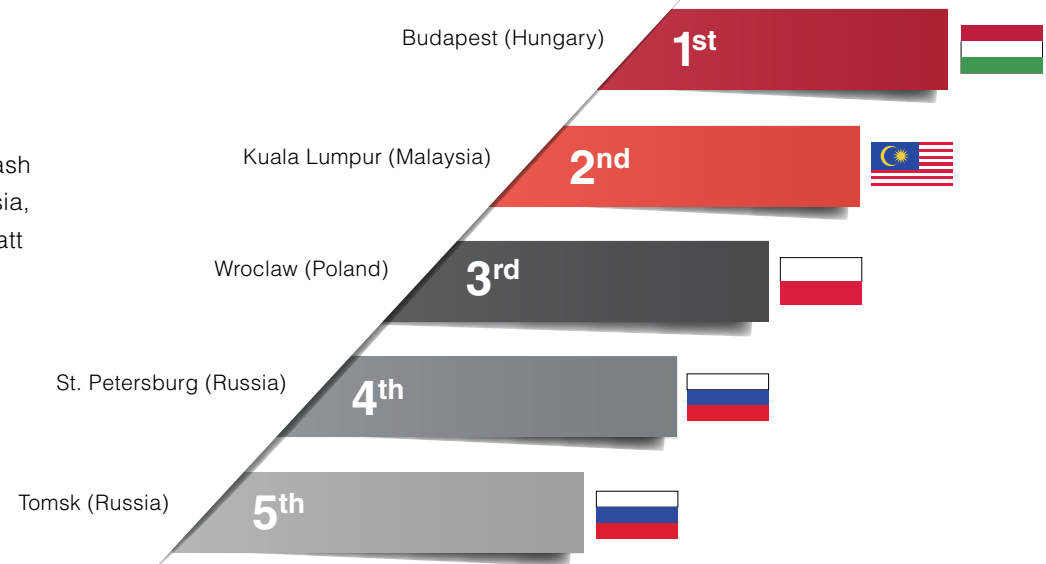


## > Quality Education System

The Malaysian education system caters to a wide range of community. We have a large number of public and private schools, with a comprehensive curriculum that is regulated by the Ministry of Education. Expatriates are also given the option to enrol their children in the many highly ranked international schools that cater to the teaching methodologies and curriculum of their country of origin.

Many international universities have also set up branch campuses in Malaysia in recent years. These include University of Southampton Malaysia, University of Monash Malaysia, University of Nottingham Malaysia, Newcastle University Medicine Malaysia, Curtin University in Sarawak, University of Reading Malaysia, University of Heriot Watt Malaysia, University of Swinburne Sarawak and Xiamen University Malaysia.

## Kuala Lumpur was ranked the 2nd Most Affordable City in the world for Students in 2019



Source: Quacquarelli Symonds, British company specialising in the analysis of higher education 2019



# > Unsurpassed Lifestyle

Life in Malaysia is an adventure. The year-long warm and sunny climate offers an unsurpassed lifestyle, especially for people who love the outdoors. Families can spend many an exciting weekend at Malaysia's national parks with their magnificent rivers and mountains, fly to one of the many island retreats for snorkelling and scuba

diving, drive for a game of golf in a cool hill resort, shop-till-you-drop in ultra-modern shopping complexes or factory outlets, or have an unforgettable experience of fun and adventure at one of Malaysia's many amusement parks.



## > Food Paradise

Malaysian cuisine is, like the country itself, culturally rich and diverse. The sum of various delicious parts, Malaysian cuisine includes Malay, Chinese and Indian influences. Whether you like street food under oversized umbrellas, or if you prefer five-star dining, Malaysia has something for every appetite.

## > Back to Nature

Malaysia is one of the leading dive destinations in the world, with one of the richest marine environments in the Indo-Pacific Basin. The incredible biodiversity of marine life, coupled with warm, clear waters, beautiful islands and breathtaking beaches keep divers coming back to Malaysia.

Diving sites in Malaysia include Tioman Island and Aur Island in Johor, Kapas Island and Perhentian Island in Terengganu and Mantanani, Matakang, Mabul and Sipadan in Sabah. Imagine sandy beaches and turquoise tropical waters rich in rainbow-coloured sea life. Malaysia is a true gift to lovers of the sea.

There are numerous nature reserves and hiking trails across Malaysia to be explored. Escape from the hustle and bustle of the daily grind by hiking through Malaysia's mesmerising flora and fauna, and reward yourself with breathtaking peak views. These include Taman Negara (National Park Malaysia), Bako National Park, KL Forest Eco Park, Broga Hill, Penang Hill, and Mount Kinabalu.

## > Shop to Your Heart's Content

Malaysia is a world-class shopping destination. From the giant malls with trendy designer stores and premium outlets to the night market stalls and pop-up collectors market, Malaysia is a shopper's paradise. The One Utama Shopping Centre is the largest shopping mall in the country and the seventh-largest retail space in the world. Malaysia features hundreds of duty-free outlets in airports and tourist attractions like the tropical island paradises of Langkawi and Labuan. Up north to Penang and down south to Johor, or across the ocean to East Malaysia, the country offers plenty of options to tickle your shopping fancy.





## > Vibrant Culture and Arts

Malaysian culture draws upon its multi racial population. From indigenous tribes to Malay, Chinese and Indian cultural influences, it has made us the melting pot of Asia. Malaysia is one of the world's best producers of colourful lion dance costumes, which can be seen proudly displayed during the Lunar New Year celebrations. Malaysian Batik is one of the oldest textile arts around and usually seen in garments with floral motifs. We have our unique shadow puppetry called the Wayang Kulit, which is used in storytelling that dates back generations. Malaysia also has over 130 museums to enrich visitors with information and exhibits on the country's history, culture and heritage. These include the National Museum, Islamic Arts Museum, State Museums of Melaka and Petrosains Museum.

## > Experience Tropical Nightlife

Malaysia's capital, Kuala Lumpur is a vibrant city complete with an incredible nightlife scene. There is something for everyone with its exclusive restaurants, hip bars, trendy nightclubs, and cool karaoke spots. There are many trendy nightlife spots in the city such as TREC which can draw crowds of thousands during weekends with its hipster speakeasies, comedy clubs, piano bars and many others to fit any musical taste. Mantra Bangsar and the Wet Deck at the stylish W Kuala Lumpur hotel are fashionable establishments that offer some of the best views of the city skyline.

## > Thrilling Sporting Events

Malaysia features world-class sporting facilities and hosts many exciting international events.

Le Tour de Langkawi is an annual race sanctioned by the International Cycling Union (UCI). The Penang International Dragon Boat Festival offers thrills as teams battle for glory. The ATP Malaysian Open provides tennis fans with dazzling entertainment.

Besides watching sports, you can work on your golf game at one of our 200 golf courses including some designed by legends such as Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer and Ernie Els. Beat the heat and swing at night at premier golf courses that provide glare-free floodlights.

Improve your game and your business in Malaysia.

# BUSINESS DURING COVID-19

## > We Are Here to Assist

The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting economies worldwide. MIDA is committed to supporting our stakeholders during these challenging times. Get updated information including advisories to businesses in this section. Malaysia's COVID-19 response is a case study for developed nations worldwide.

The Government is currently ramping up its National COVID-19 Immunisation Programme. Among the new initiatives is the Public-Private Partnership COVID-19 Industrial Immunisation Programme (PIKAS). Recognising that it is critical to support

## The Establishment of One Stop Centre (OSC) for Business Travellers

In efforts to balance public health, livelihoods and economic sustainability, a One Stop Centre (OSC) has been set up by the Malaysian Government effective 2nd October 2020 to ease the movement of business travellers by expediting the approval of their entry to do business in Malaysia.

For more information, visit [www.safetravel.mida.gov.my](http://www.safetravel.mida.gov.my)

the supply chain of essential products and services, MITI is expediting the attainment of herd immunity through PIKAS to coordinate the immunisation for employees in the manufacturing sector.

For more information on PIKAS, please refer to the Official Portal of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry. <https://www.miti.gov.my/redir/pikas/pikas.html>

## Useful links

- For the latest updates on the COVID-19 situation in Malaysia, visit MOH's Website (<https://www.moh.gov.my/>)
- For the latest updates on Movement Control Order, visit MKN's Website (<https://www.mkn.gov.my/>)
- For the latest FAQ on human resource, visit MOHR's Website ([mohr.gov.my/index.php/ms/](http://mohr.gov.my/index.php/ms/))

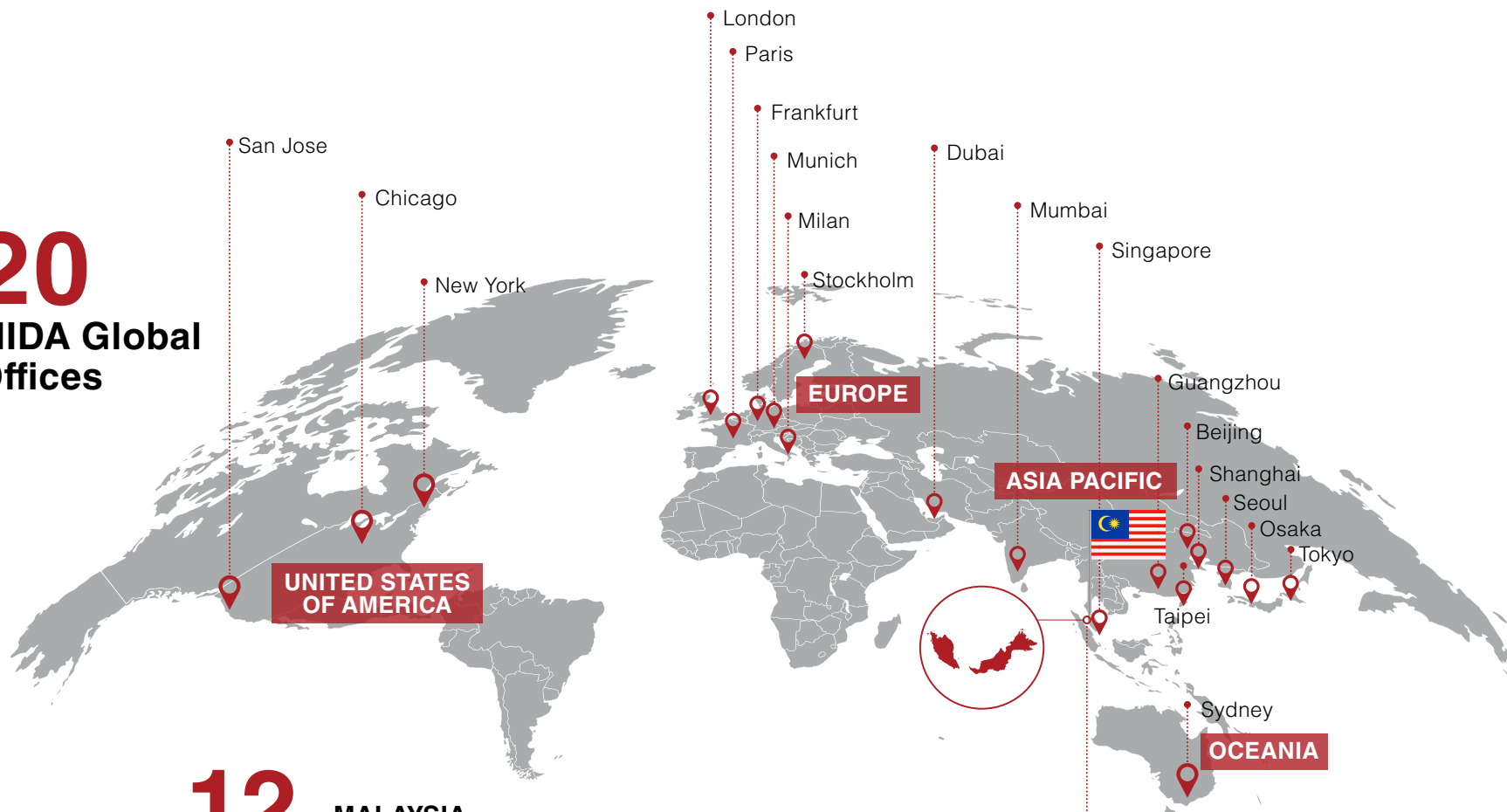


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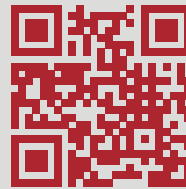
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