

My Dear Members,

**Lunch in Honour of Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew**  
**Hosted by the President & Board of Directors**  
**Thursday, June 11, 2009, Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Kuala Lumpur**

KLBC Board members met with Singapore's Minister Mentor (MM), Lee Kuan Yew, on Thursday, June 11, 2009.

The Singapore delegation consisted of Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Minister of Finance, Dr Ng Eng Hen, Minister of Education and Second Minister for Defence, Mr Lui Tuck Yew, Acting Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts, Mr Masagos Zulkifli bin Masagos Mohamed, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Home Affairs, HE T. Jasudasen, High Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore to Malaysia, and some others.



At our meeting with Mr Lee Kuan Yew, we mainly discussed our respective expectations towards improving bilateral economic relationships in facing the challenges that lie ahead.

“We don't want to compete; we want to cooperate,” he stated.

From the outset, Mr Lee Kuan Yew asked us what we were doing in keeping Malaysia competitive. He also made it very clear that he was very keen on seeing closer links being forged between Malaysia and Singapore, across the board and for the long term. He noted that the region faces its biggest challenge now and if we do not move, we stand to lose to China and India, the countries he referred to as “the 2 vacuum cleaners!”

On this score, he said that currently, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam and Indonesia are the key players in the region and the pressure is on, for us to work closer and harder to ensure we are not left behind.

In the context of improving bilateral links via investments, we discussed the objectives and long-term benefits of Malaysian projects such as the proposed 3<sup>rd</sup> bridge and Iskandar Investment.

All in all, it was an informative and useful session that we had with Mr Lee Kuan Yew.

I am certain that we can in fact find more common areas of interest that would benefit both countries. The KLBC business visit to Singapore, in conjunction with the APEC CEO Summit which is being held in Singapore from 12-14 November this year, may be just the opportunity we need to nail down some of these areas of cooperation. I hope all Members, who have ideas in this direction, will therefore ensure that you are part of the KLBC delegation come November this year.

If you require more information on participation in the APEC CEO Summit or to be part of the KLBC business visit, do contact the KLBC Secretariat at [klbc@jirehconsult.com.my](mailto:klbc@jirehconsult.com.my) or call 03-7710 8122.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rohana Tan Sri Mahmood  
President  
Kuala Lumpur Business Club