

Fireside Chat with YB Lim Guan Eng, Minister of Finance, Malaysia, on the “State of the Nation” 7th August 2018

The Kuala Lumpur Business Club (KLBC) hosted a Fireside Chat with YB Lim Guan Eng, Malaysia’s Minister of Finance, on the “State of the Nation”, on 7th August 2018, at the St Regis hotel in Kuala Lumpur.

The Minister opened by giving members an overview of the current fiscal situation in the country and then took questions from the floor. He was as frank and transparent as members expected him to be, offering insights into the government’s thinking.

Since the SST bill was still being debated, YB Lim left for Parliament after 40 minutes, leaving us in the capable hands of his special officer, YB Tony Pua.

The question and answer session covered the following areas:

- a) The challenges faced by the current government
- b) The short, medium, and long-term plans and projects
- c) Balance sheet
- d) GST
- e) Corporate tax
- f) The investment community
- g) How can the corporate sector be part of the new game plan?

Both the Minister and YB Tony Pua emphasized that Malaysia can and will recover, after a (hopefully brief) period of pain to restore the nation’s coffers. They both suggested that KLBC could be a useful backchannel for the government and the business community, especially on the international front.

The Fireside Chat ended on a positive note, leaving members clear that the reform agenda is still very much on and that the consumer and business confidence index remains healthy.

The event was attended by about 120 participants, comprising KLBC members and their invited guests.

**Prepared by,
The Secretariat
Kuala Lumpur Business Club**