



Published on *theSunday* (<http://www.thesunday.my>)

Call to boost bilateral trade in Malaysia-Thailand border areas

Posted on 14 September 2017 - 11:28pm

Last updated on 14 September 2017 - 11:33pm

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BANGKOK: Malaysia and Thailand want to enhance bilateral trade ties, especially in the border areas and are studying several proposals to achieve the goal, said Second Finance Minister Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani.

One of the proposals, he said, involved further facilitating the movements of goods and containers from Songkla Port in southern Thailand to Penang Port.

"The Thailand government is excited about this proposal as the distance between the two ports is 260km, or four hours of travel," he told *Bernama* after delivering the keynote address at the business forum here today.

The forum, which is jointly organised by the Malaysia-Thailand Business Council and Thailand-Malaysia Business Council, was held in conjunction with the three-day visit to Thailand by the Kuala Lumpur Business Club (KLBC) headed by its president Tengku Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz who is also the CIMB Group chief executive officer.

Earlier, Johari and the KLBC entourage paid a courtesy call on Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak at his office.

Johari said the proposal to build an inland port at Bukit Kayu Hitam would also enhance bilateral trade relations and boost the overall trade between the two countries.

He said the inland port would handle goods from Thailand en route to the export markets in West Asia and Europe due to the short distance involved.

"We will develop Bukit Kayu Hitam so that it would become the distribution hub in the region," he said.

Malaysia, which has an economy of US\$300 billion (US\$1 = RM4.20) and Thailand US\$400 billion, should collaborate to enhance bilateral trade, Johari said.

"This is because of the combined economic value of US\$700 billion for both the countries, the bilateral trade only amounted to US\$20 billion annually. The opportunities for both countries to increase trade are tremendous," he said.

Malaysia and Thailand have targeted bilateral trade to grow to US\$30 billion annually in 2018.

Johari said the KLBC's visit to Thailand was to seek business opportunities in various economic sectors, including financial services, which would further enhance trade relations between the two countries. — *Bernama*

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Headline	KL Business Club strengthens business ties with Thailand		
MediaTitle	Malay Mail		
Date	18 Sep 2017	Color	Full Color
Section	Money	Circulation	100,000
Page No	17	Readership	300,000
Language	English	ArticleSize	589 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 6,730
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 20,190



KL Business Club strengthens business ties with Thailand

BANGKOK — Kuala Lumpur Business Club (KLBC) president Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Aziz, on a mission in Bangkok, said Malaysia and Thailand are well-poised to thrive as Asean begins to realise its full economic potential.

“As the global market begins to recognize Asean’s economic importance, both Malaysia and Thailand — being not just more advanced economies in this region but also immediate neighbours with 60 years of diplomatic relations — are well-poised to thrive as Asean begins to realise its full economic potential.

“KLBC is pleased to facilitate this opportunity for top corporate leaders from both countries to share, explore and discuss more business prospects between both countries.”

Tengku Zafrul was also there in his capacity as group chief executive of CIMB Group, which, together with Malaysia-based Asian Leadership and Strategy Institute, Malaysia-Thailand Business Council and the Thailand-Malaysia Business Council jointly organised a business forum on last week.

The forum was attended by prominent corporate leaders from both countries, who shared their insights on expanding Malaysia-Thailand trade ties, the challenges and opportunities afforded by Asean’s growing economic clout.

China’s ambitious Belt and Road initiative also motivated the group on how it would shape the new global economy, and set Asean countries on a more dynamic growth trajectory.

The business mission also included private meetings with Thai corporate leaders as well as visits to the Stock Exchange of Thailand and the Investory,

Johari (fourth left) and Zafrul (second left) in discussion with Thai Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha at the Government House in Bangkok on Friday. — Picture by Bernama



which is the first Investment Discovery Museum in Thailand.

Second Finance Minister Datuk Seri Johari Ghani headed the delegation comprising 29 high-profile Malaysian government officials, industry captains and members of the KLBC.

The three-day business mission to Bangkok were to further strengthen business relations and economic cooperation between Malaysia and Thailand.

Johari said: “Malaysia and Thailand are important trade partners, with a

combined total trade of more than US\$20 billion (RM83.8 billion) in 2016, which is testament to the strong economic cooperation between the two countries.

“Through this mission, we look forward to further trade and investment cooperation, to strengthen the already strong bilateral ties between Malaysia and Thailand. We had a fruitful discussion with the Thai prime minister and his officials, who were informed that Malaysia will always welcome more

Thai investments in Malaysia.

“The strengthening of the bilateral ties also bodes well with the overall spirit of Asean’s integration. Through the establishment of Asean Economic Community for example, we strive to open up the market further, creating more opportunities, removing trade barriers and increasing the meaningful participation of local players at the global and regional levels”.

(US\$1 = RM4.19)



16 Sep 2017
New Straits Times, Malaysia

Author: No author available • Section: Business Times • Page: B16
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2 STRENGTHENING TIES
Second Finance Minister Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani (front row, sixth from right), Thailand Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha (front row, fifth from right) and Kuala Lumpur Business Club president and CIMB Group Holdings Bhd group chief executive officer Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz (back row, fourth from left) with Kuala Lumpur Business Club members during a visit to Bangkok recently.



18 Sep 2017
The Edge, Malaysia

Author: No author available • Section: Corporate • Page: 74 • Printed Size: 154.00cm²
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6 Second Minister of Finance Datuk Seri Johari Ghani (fifth from right), Thai Minister of Finance Apisak Tantivorawong (sixth from right) and president of the Kuala Lumpur Business Club and CIMB Group chief executive Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Aziz (fourth from right) with members of the Kuala Lumpur Business Club paying a courtesy call on Prime Minister of Thailand Prayuth Chan-ocha during a business mission to Bangkok on Sept 15.

Thailand sokong cadangan Malaysia wujud hubungan pengangkutan laut Songkhla - P. Pinang

September 15, 2017 21:13 MYT



Jeneral Prayut Chan-o-cha menyuarakan sokongan terhadap cadangan Malaysia bagi mewujudkan laluan kesalinghubungan lebih baik antara Pelabuhan Songkhla dengan Pelabuhan P.Pinang.

BANGKOK: Perdana Menteri Thailand, Jeneral Prayut Chan-o-cha hari ini menyuarakan sokongan negaranya terhadap cadangan Malaysia bagi mewujudkan laluan kesalinghubungan lebih baik antara Pelabuhan Songkhla di selatan negara itu dengan Pelabuhan Pulau Pinang.

Malah, pemimpin Thailand itu berkata kedua-dua negara terbabit akan mempertingkatkan perbincangan mengenai perkara itu kerana melibatkan kepentingan bersama.

"Memandangkan kita berkongsi sempadan sama, bagi saya, adalah wajar untuk kita saling bekerjasama. Kita perlu membangunkan ekonomi secara bersama dengan meningkatkan aspek kesalinghubungan seperti pelabuhan, sempadan kastam dan pelaburan di kedua-dua negara," katanya pada sidang media di Rumah Kerajaan di sini, hari ini.

Terdahulu, beliau menyambut kehadiran Menteri Kewangan Kedua Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani dan ahli Kuala Lumpur Business Club (KLBC) yang melakukan lawatan tiga hari ke Thailand bermula semalam.

Delegasi KLBC itu diketuai oleh Presidennya, Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz yang juga Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif CIMB Group Holdings Bhd.

Johari menyuarakan cadangan Malaysia berhubung aspek kesalinghubungan lebih baik antara Pelabuhan Songkhla dan Pelabuhan Pulau Pinang sewaktu beliau mengadakan pertemuan dengan Timbalan Perdana Menteri Thailand, Somkid Jatusripitak pada Khamis.

Beliau memberitahu Bernama, Thailand turut teruja dengan cadangan itu yang akan melancarkan pergerakan barangan dan kontena dari Pelabuhan Songkhla dan Pulau Pinang kerana faktor jarak kedua-duanya yang berhampiran.

Selain memberi kemudahan dari segi kesalinghubungan yang lebih baik antara kedua-dua pelabuhan itu, Prayut berkata beliau dan Johari turut membincangkan pembangunan Bandar Raya Getah antara wilayah Songkhla dan Kedah.

Johari turut membawa bersama beberapa pelabur yang berpotensi untuk projek berkenaan dan memperkenalkan mereka kepada Prayut dan Somkid.

"Mulai sekarang, kita akan mengadakan perbincangan lanjut mengenai pembinaan jalan raya (di sempadan) dan kita akan menggerakkan semuanya dalam tahun ini," kata Prayut.

Menurutnya, beliau dan Johari turut membincangkan cara untuk meningkatkan kerjasama ekonomi antara kedua-dua negara jiran berkenaan.

"Banyak negara yang berminat dengan Thailand dan bersedia untuk turut serta," katanya.

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KLBC to strengthen business ties between Malaysia and Thailand

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Datuk Seri Johari Ghani, Malaysian Minister of Finance II (front row, sixth from right); Prime Minister of Thailand Prayuth Chan-ocha (front row, fifth from right) and President of the Kuala Lumpur Business Club and Group Chief Executive, CIMB Group Tengku Dato' Sri Zafrul Aziz (back row, third from left) with members of the Kuala Lumpur Business Club posing for a photo at a courtesy call on the Thai Prime Minister during the business mission to Bangkok.

By NST Business (/authors/nst-business) - September 15, 2017 @ 5:46pm

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia aims to further strengthen business relations and economic cooperation with Thailand, following its recent three-day business mission to Bangkok.

Second Finance Minister Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani led a delegation comprising 29 high-profile government officials, industry captains and members of the Kuala Lumpur Business Club (KLBC).

Johari also paid a courtesy call on Thailand's Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak, Finance Minister Apisak Tantivorawong; and other high-level Thai government officials and regulators.

Johari said Malaysia and Thailand are important trade partners, with a combined total trade of more than US\$20 billion in 2016, which is testament to the strong economic cooperation between the two countries.

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"Through this mission, we look forward to further trade and investment cooperation, to strengthen the already strong bilateral ties between Malaysia and Thailand. We had a fruitful discussion with the Thai Prime Minister and his officials, who were informed that Malaysia will always welcome more Thai investments in Malaysia.

"The strengthening of the bilateral ties also bodes well with the overall spirit of Asean's integration. Through the establishment of Asean Economic Community (AEC) for example, we strive to open up the market further, creating more opportunities, removing trade barriers and increasing the meaningful participation of local players at the global and regional levels," Johari said.

KLBC president Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Aziz said as the global market begins to recognise Asean's economic importance, both Malaysia and Thailand – being not just more advanced economies in this region but also immediate neighbours with 60 years of diplomatic relations – are well-poised to thrive as Asean begins to realise its full economic potential.

"KLBC is pleased to facilitate this opportunity for top corporate leaders from both countries to share, explore and discuss more business prospects between both countries," said Zafrul who is also CIMB Group chief executive.

The forum was attended by prominent corporate leaders from both countries, who shared their insights on expanding Malaysia-Thailand trade ties, the challenges and opportunities afforded by Asean's growing economic clout, and how China's ambitious Belt and Road initiative would shape the new global economy, and set Asean countries on a more dynamic growth trajectory.

The business mission also included private meetings with Thai corporate leaders as well as visits to the Stock Exchange of Thailand and the Investory, which is the first Investment Discovery Museum in Thailand.

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September 15, 2017

Malaysia-Thailand agree to better port connectivity

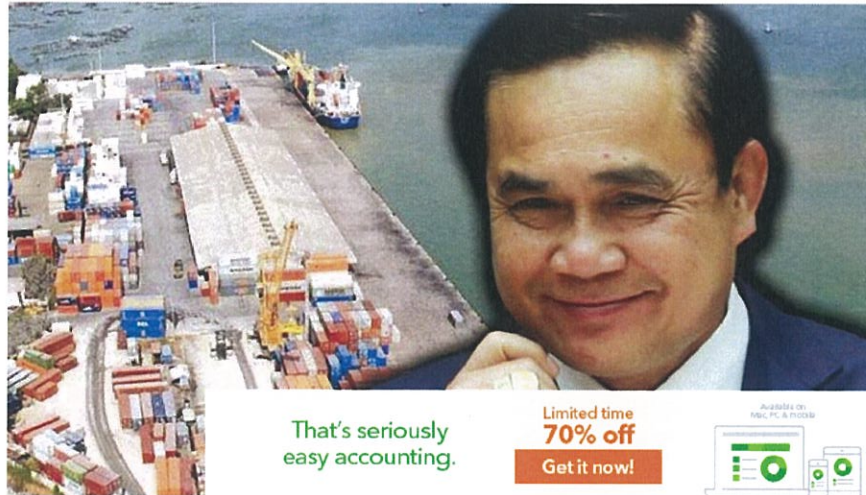
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BANGKOK: Malaysia’s proposal for better connectivity between Songkhla Port in southern Thailand and Penang Port has received the thumbs-up from Thai Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha.

The premier said both countries would intensify discussions on the issue as it could be of mutual benefit.

“We share the border, so I think we should join hands. We should develop our economy together through increased connectivity such as our sea ports, borders and investments on both sides,” he told the media at Government House here today.

Earlier today, he received Malaysian Second Finance Minister Johari Abdul Ghani and members of the Kuala Lumpur Business Club (KLBC), who were on a three-day visit to Thailand beginning Wednesday, at his office.

The KLBC’s delegation was headed by its president Tengku Zafrul Aziz, who is also CIMB Group Holdings Bhd Group chief executive officer.

Johari spoke of Malaysia’s proposal for better connectivity between the two country’s ports when he called on Thai Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak on Thursday.

Johari told Bernama that Thailand was enthusiastic about the proposal as it would see a better flow of goods and containers between the two seaports.

Prayut said he and Johari also discussed the development of Rubber City between the Songkhla province in southern Thailand and Kedah. Several potential investors for the Rubber City project were also introduced to Prayut and Somkid.

“We will now discuss road construction (at the border) and will mobilise everything within this year,” Prayut said, adding that he and Johari also discussed ways to increase economic cooperation between the two neighbours.

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The Star, Malaysia

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2. Bangkok mission: Finance Minister II Datuk Seri Johari Ghani (fifth from right), Thai Finance Minister Apisak Tantivorawong (sixth from right) and Kuala Lumpur Business Club (KLBC) president and CIMB Group CEO Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Aziz (fourth from right) with KLBC members during a courtesy call on Thai Finance Minister, as part of KLBC's Business Mission to Bangkok led by Johari. The KLBC delegation comprised 29 high-profile Malaysian government officials and industry captains, who were on a three-day business mission to further strengthen trade and investment ties between Malaysia and Thailand.

Thailand Supports Better Sea Transport Link Between Songkla And Penang

Details Published on Friday, 15 September 2017 20:00



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Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha.

BANGKOK -- Malaysia's proposal for a better connectivity between Songkla Port in southern Thailand and Penang Port has received a thumbs-up from Thai Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha.

The premier said both countries would intensify discussions on the matter as it could be of mutual benefit.

"We share the border, so, I think we should be joining hands. We should develop our economy together through increased connectivity such as our sea ports, customs borders and investment on both sides," he told the media at the Government House here today.

Earlier today, he received Malaysian Second Finance Minister Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani and members of the Kuala Lumpur Business Club (KLBC), who were three-day visit to Thailand beginning Wednesday, at his office.

The KLBC's delegation is headed by its president Tengku Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz who is also CIMB Group Holdings Bhd Chief Executive Officer.

Johari sounded off Malaysia's proposal for a better connectivity between Songkla Port and Penang

Port when he called on Thai Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak on Thursday.

Johari to Bernama that Thailand was excited over the proposal which would see better flow of goods and containers from Songkla Port to Penang Port as better connectivity between the two seaports was needed due to their close proximity.


Besides providing better linkage between the two ports, Prayut said he and Johari also discussed on the development of the Rubber City between the Songkla province in southern Thailand and Kedah.




Johari also brought along several potential investors for the Rubber City project and introduced them to Prayut and Somkid.


"From now on, we will discuss further on road construction (at the border) and we will mobilise everything within this year," Prayut said, adding that he and Johari also discussed ways to increase economic cooperation between the two neighbours.

"Many countries are interested in Thailand and ready to join hands with us," he said.


-- BERNAMA





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[News > Security](#)**Prayut seeks Malaysia's help in South**

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Datuk Seri Johari bin Abdul Ghani, the Malaysian second finance minister, left, and Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha shake hands as they meet at Government House yesterday to discuss several areas of bilateral cooperation. (Photo by Thiti Wannamontha)

- +

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha has requested further support from Malaysia to help maintain law and order in the far South.

Gen Prayut made the request during discussions with a Malaysian delegation at Government House yesterday on various types of cross-border cooperation including security measures, said Lt Gen Werachon Sukondhapatipak, a deputy government spokesman.

The visiting Malaysian team was led by Datuk Seri Johari bin Abdul Ghani, the Malaysian second finance minister, and consisted also of executives of business associations in Malaysia.

Gen Prayut pointed out during yesterday's discussions with his Malaysian guests that security is a key factor in sustaining both countries' development, said Lt Gen Werachon.

Gen Prayut also thanked Malaysia for the high number of Malaysian tourists visiting Thailand lately, only second to the number of tourists from China.

The premier said Thailand's tourism promotion policy including the Thailand + 1 tourism promotion campaign should help strengthen Thailand-Malaysian cooperation in tourism.

Mr Johari, meanwhile, proposed that Thailand and Malaysia work towards ramping up their transport connectivity, particularly between the northern parts of Malaysia and the southern parts of Thailand, said Lt Gen Werachon.

Gen Prayut responded to the proposal by assuring him that Thailand is ready to increase the level of connectivity between its transport infrastructure with that of Malaysia to boost border trade and the economy, said Lt Gen Werachon.

The PM also praised the Malaysian business sector for serving as a crucial mechanism in steering Malaysia's trade cooperation both domestically and regionally, said Lt Gen Werachon.

Gen Prayut also encouraged Malaysian business associations to expand their roles in supporting new trade and investment opportunities in Thailand, said

Malaysia to further strengthen business ties with Thailand

ECONOMY

Friday, 15 Sep 2017
7:14 PM MYT



Thai PM Prayut Chan-o-cha (5th from right) poses with Johari (front row, 6th from right) and the members of the Kuala Lumpur Business Club, whose president is CIMB Group chief executive Tengku Zafrul (back row, 3rd from left).

PETALING JAYA: The Government hopes to further strengthen business relations and economic cooperation between Malaysia and Thailand.

ECONOMY

Friday, 15 Sep 2017
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"Malaysia and Thailand are important trade partners, with a combined total trade of more than US\$20bil in 2016, which is testament to the strong economic cooperation between the two countries.

"Through this mission, we look forward to further trade and investment cooperation, to strengthen the already strong bilateral ties between Malaysia and Thailand," Second Finance Minister Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani said in a statement.

Johari led a delegation of 29 Malaysian government officials, industry captains and members of the Kuala Lumpur Business Club (KLBC) on a three-day business mission to Bangkok.

During the business mission, Johari also paid a courtesy call on Thailand's Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha, deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak and Finance Minister Apisak Tantivorawong.

"We had a fruitful discussion with the Thai Prime Minister and his officials, who were informed that Malaysia will always welcome more Thai investments in Malaysia. The strengthening of the bilateral ties also bodes well with the overall spirit of Asean's integration.

"Through the establishment of Asean Economic Community (AEC) for example, we strive to open up the market further, creating more opportunities, removing trade barriers and increasing the meaningful participation of local players at the global and regional levels," Johari said.

KLBC president Tengku Datuk Sri Zafrul Aziz said "As the global market begins to recognise ASEAN's economic importance, both Malaysia and Thailand - being not just more advanced economies in this region but also immediate neighbours with 60 years of diplomatic relations - are well-poised to thrive as ASEAN begins to realise its full economic potential."

He added that KLBC was pleased to facilitate this opportunity for top corporate leaders from both countries to share, explore and discuss more business prospects between both countries.

* See also [Thai PM supports Malaysia's proposal for better port connectivity](#)

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Penang Port's container operations at the North Butterworth Container Terminal. Both Malaysia and Thailand want to see a better connectivity between Penang Port and Songkhla Port in southern Thailand.

BANGKOK: Malaysia's proposal for a better connectivity between Songkhla Port in southern Thailand and Penang Port has received a thumbs-up from Thai Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha.


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The premier said both countries would intensify discussions on the matter as it could be of mutual benefit.

"We share the border, so, I think we should be joining hands. We should develop our economy together through increased connectivity such as our sea ports, customs borders and investment on both sides," he told the media at the Government House in Bangkok on Friday.

Earlier on Friday, he received Malaysian Second Finance Minister Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani and members of the Kuala Lumpur Business Club (KLBC), who were three-day visit to Thailand beginning Wednesday, at his office.

The KLBC's delegation was headed by its president Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Aziz, who is also CIMB Group  Holdings Bhd group chief executive officer.

Johari sounded off Malaysia's proposal for a better connectivity between Songkhla Port and Penang Port when he called on Thai Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak on Thursday.

Johari told Bernama that Thailand was excited over the proposal which would see better flow of goods and containers from Songkhla Port to Penang Port as better connectivity between the two seaports was needed due to their close proximity.

Besides providing better linkage between the two ports, Prayut said he and Johari also discussed on the development of the Rubber City between the Songkhla province in southern Thailand and Kedah.

Johari also brought along several potential investors for the Rubber City project and introduced them to Prayut and Somkid.

"From now on, we will discuss further on road construction (at the border) and we will mobilise everything within this year," Prayut said, adding that he and Johari also discussed ways to increase economic cooperation between the two neighbours.

"Many countries are interested in Thailand and ready to join hands with us," he said. - Bernama

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