

**KLBC Dialogue Session with His Excellency Roland Galharague, Ambassador of France to Malaysia**  
**21 June 2021**

On 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021, the Kuala Lumpur Business Club (KLBC) had the honour of hosting His Excellency Roland Galharague, Ambassador of France to Malaysia, at a virtual dialogue session themed 'France – The Gateway to EU Trade and Investment Post-Brexit'.

Following an introduction of His Excellency by KLBC President Dato' Mohammad Faiz Azmi who moderated the session, His Excellency shared his thoughts on his posting in Malaysia since his arrival in October last year.

Describing Malaysia as a country on his wish list, having viewed the country's great potential and fascinating challenges, His Excellency also noted that there is a lot of convergence between the two countries, among others, in terms of the preference for multilateral solutions and attachment to the United Nations as the pre-eminent diplomatic framework to solve issues.

His Excellency opened the dialogue by outlining four key points, namely an overview of the pandemic situation and economic measures and outlook in France, why France is a good investment proposal including its FDI-friendly policies, the impact of Brexit which has seen companies moving to France to leverage the EU single market, and the relationship between Malaysia and France.

As trading nations, he highlighted that Malaysia and France share common interests to keep the region at peace, inclusive and open for business while cooperating in addressing global challenges such as safeguarding the oceans and biodiversity, as well as adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change.

His Excellency called upon a strengthening of partnership and trade between Malaysia and France and the EU as this will offer more options and enrich the spectrum of choices for Malaysia and vice versa. He also spoke on France's European Union presidency in 2022 and the Indo Pacific strategy.

His Excellency spent about 20 minutes addressing questions on the following areas:

- a) Investment opportunities in technology, real estate, hospitality & tourism and green technology
- b) France's recovery package
- c) VAT rates

- d) Palm oil
- e) Bilateral talks
- f) WTO
- g) ASEAN

A total of 30 KLBC members and guests attended the dialogue session.

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