

KLBC Dialogue Session with His Excellency Charles Hay MVO, British High Commissioner to Malaysia

14 December 2021

On 14th December 2021, the Kuala Lumpur Business Club (KLBC) had the honour of hosting His Excellency Charles Hay MVO, British High Commissioner to Malaysia, at a virtual Dialogue session. KLBC President Dato' Mohammad Faiz Azmi moderated the session on the topic 'UK and Malaysia: Opportunities and challenges to cross-border investments and trade'.

The session began with His Excellency speaking on one of the big challenges to business today, namely on climate change, which has been a major focus of the British High Commission and the UK government in the past two years. He said that every individual and business in every household and country has to find a role to play in contributing to the net zero target.

He highlighted that ESG-related issues are no longer add-ons but have increasingly become essential to business success and that businesses that fail to contribute to the net zero target or who don't treat workers up to ILO standards will be marginalised over time.

His Excellency noted that while the UK and Malaysia have long-standing healthy trade and investment relationship, more can be done to reduce trade barriers and boost trade in areas such education, legal services and halal products.

On investment, he said that Malaysia is seen as a good market for tech, education and edutech and commended the country's goal of being an education, financial and logistics hub. He also touched on the UK's defence capabilities, cyber security and the impact of COP26.

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

- a) Loss and damage at COP26
- b) Renewable energy
- c) UK-Malaysia relationship and foreign policy
- d) UK-ASEAN ties
- e) Palm oil awareness and issues

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

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