

## **KLBC-ASEAN BAC-KADIN Indonesia Roundtable**

**1 March 2023**

The Kuala Lumpur Business Club (KLBC) had the honour of hosting a delegation from KADIN Indonesia (Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry) and ASEAN Business Advisory Council (BAC) Indonesia at a roundtable on 1 March 2023.

The 20-member delegation led by Yth Bapak Arsjad Rasjid who is chair of ASEAN BAC Indonesia and Chairman of KADIN Indonesia was hosted by KLBC Founder and Board member, Dato' Rohana Tan Sri Mahmood.

In her welcome remarks, Dato' Rohana said the roundtable was truly about getting to know each other better, exploring ways to work and do business together and intensifying efforts to strengthen Indonesian-Malaysian relationship and towards the betterment of ASEAN.

Dato' Rohana shared that the relationship and ties between KLBC and Indonesia, particularly KADIN, go a long way back. As early as 2006, KLBC connected with the Indonesian government and corporate leadership and has since made two business missions to Jakarta, one of which was led by KLBC Royal Patron HRH Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah. During the business missions, among others, KLBC was hosted at closed-door meetings with Indonesian President Joko Widodo and President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, whom KLBC had also hosted together with many of his cabinet members at a roundtable in Malaysia.

In conclusion, Dato' Rohana said that given the regional and global challenges, it was important more than ever, to work even closer and directly to understand and discuss issues, help each other out and exchange support to ensure that that trade and investment prospers not only within but also outside of ASEAN and that ASEAN continues to be an important trading arm for the EU, the US and China.

In his speech and presentation on “ASEAN BAC Indonesia’s Chairmanship”, Bapak Arsjad agreed with Dato’ Rohana and said that intra-ASEAN investment and economic partnership must be continuously strengthened.

Bapak Arsjad said that the ASEAN BAC under Indonesia’s chairmanship is focusing on five priority issue, namely digital transformation, sustainable development, health resilience, food security and trade facilitation, all of which are not based only from the Indonesian perspective but also the urgency of other ASEAN countries’ economic development. He went on to illustrate the assessments and rationale for the five priority issues.

He noted that economic partnerships will be the key to regional peace and stability and that ASEAN has to be the centre of the global constellation and actively engage with more stakeholders in the process and be inclusive.

The speeches were followed by a presentation on an “Overview of Malaysia’s Economy” by MIDF Economist Abdul Mui’zz Morhalim.

The closing remarks were delivered by KLBC Board Member Dato’ Dr Zaha Rina Zahari who also moderated the lively Q&A session which delved on the five priority topics of the roundtable and went over time due to the robustness of the discussions.

The roundtable was attended by about 40 KLBC members and guests and members of the ASEAN BAC Indonesia and KADIN delegation.

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