

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MALAYSIA



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Let me first thank MASSA for giving me the opportunity to write a Message for its Annual Report 2019/2020. It has always been an honour for the Ministry to be part of an Association that seeks to forge closer cooperation among business communities from Malaysia and the South-South countries.

Malaysia's foreign policy remains consistent, in that it continues to pursue an independent, principled and pragmatic foreign policy based on equality, justice and the rule of law.

As a trading nation, Malaysia is committed to further promoting and facilitating trade and investment, in particular with the countries in the Global South. We stand ready to cooperate and share our development experiences and knowledge with other developing countries in order to achieve the common goal of building peaceful and prosperous nations.

In creating a holistic and sustainable economic growth, Malaysia believes in strengthening resilience and empowering self-reliance through continuous learning, innovation and technology while enhancing local and regional partners in development.

In this context, Malaysia has worked together with other countries by sharing experience and expertise through the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP), a capacity building programme designed to improve the human resource capacity in the developing countries of the South as an enabler of economic growth and social development.

With the recent global health crisis that has temporarily shut the world's economic activities, the Ministry holds the view that the strengthening cooperation and collaboration between the public and private sectors post-COVID-19 has become ever more important in rebuilding the domestic economy and in enhancing Malaysia's marketability.

With this in mind, the Ministry has widened the scope of the MTCP to include a new dimension with a pro-business focus, known as the MTCP-Private Sector collaboration. This new approach is aimed at facilitating market access for Malaysian private sector overseas to businesses in the South-South countries, through Malaysia's diplomatic Missions abroad.

The Ministry, therefore, welcomes members of MASSA with specific projects to collaborate with MTCP under this programme.

Undoubtedly, the year 2020 presents new challenges for the global economy. Malaysia's private sector must remain steadfast and undeterred in taking bold steps to find new business ventures and partnerships, including in knowledge-based, science and technology related industries that have not been fully explored by Malaysia.

MASSA has contributed towards the strengthening of Malaysia's economic cooperation and partnership with countries across the globe. We hope MASSA will continue to contribute to the nation's sustainable growth and strengthen the nation's effort to achieve its status as a developed nation.

In these challenging times, it is very encouraging to know that MASSA is a dependable partner that the Government can count on to accomplish the goals of a greater South-South cooperation.

On that note, on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I wish to congratulate MASSA for the successful year of 2019. I look forward to another year of meaningful and productive partnership with MASSA.

DATO' SRI MUHAMMAD SHAHRUL IKRAM YAAKOB
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