



**PRIME MINISTER  
MALAYSIA**

## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER FOR THE WORLD CHINESE ECONOMIC FORUM**

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I am indeed privileged to pen a few words for the World Chinese Economic Forum which is being held in Malaysia on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of November, 2018.

It cannot be overstated of how important such a forum is at this juncture especially when global economy is being threatened by a trade war between two giant economies.

While we are all aware of the on-going trade war, we have yet to fully grasp the extent of its impact on a trading nation like Malaysia. We do not yet know whether we would be able to withstand it or we can circumvent it and come out of it unscathed or our losses kept at its lowest.

While the forum is an initiative or a platform for the Chinese diaspora scattered all over the world to connect, it is their wide and extensive reach that would provide participants insights on how to survive in a hostile or non-conducive trade environment.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome participants to this instalment of World Chinese Economic Forum.

It is my fervent hope that participants exchanging views and sharing inputs will take the opportunity to promote a closer relationship and cooperation between China and Asean and China and the West.

I am sure participants are fully aware of the unending benefits that they can tap from a close collaboration between China and Asean and the West and the rest of the world.

As for Malaysia, we always welcome investments from China. Commerce between Malaysia and China is a historical fact that was established hundreds of years ago.

Our relationship had always been based on trust, mutual respect and a win-win agenda. We are an open market economy and we promote business friendly policies.

China being the global trade power today has a lot to offer to Malaysia in terms of bilateral trade and proactively and this can be achieved through Chinese investments that provide training for local workers, transfer of technology and tapping on the local workers especially the skilled and professionals.

The opportunities and potential are endless and I hope this forum will, at the conclusion, propose initiatives and strategies that can be adopted in realising the possibilities.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Co-Founders of the World Chinese Economic Forum, Tan Sri Lee Kim Yew and Tan Sri Michael Yeoh, for bringing the forum to Malaysia and ensuring its continuous success.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DR MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMAD', written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

**DR MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMAD**

8 November 2018