Past and present of Malaysia-Japan relations

For decades, Japan and Malaysia have enjoyed a good relationship in various fields such as trade, investment, technology, and culture. After Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad assumed power in 1981, his government aimed to strengthen ties with Japan, especially in the 1980s and 1990s. The relationship was further enhanced by the establishment of the Japanese National Organization in Malaysia (JNOM) in 2010 and the Japan Business Council in Malaysia (JBCM) in 2011. These organizations work to promote trade and investment between the two countries.

Today, the relationship between Japan and Malaysia is characterized by strong economic ties, particularly in the manufacturing sector. Japanese companies have invested significantly in Malaysia, contributing to its economic development. According to Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), approximately 1,400 Japanese companies are operating in Malaysia, with a focus on various industries such as electronics, automotive, and machinery.

In terms of trade, Malaysia is the second-largest source of foreign direct investment to Japan, accounting for about 18 percent of total Japanese investment in the country. Japanese companies have been actively investing in Malaysia, particularly in the automotive and electronics sectors. The strong relationship between the two countries has led to the establishment of numerous joint ventures and partnerships, which have contributed to the economic growth of both nations.

Japan has always been one of Malaysia’s top foreign investors, with significant investments in key sectors such as manufacturing, services, and infrastructure. In 2017, Japanese direct investment in Malaysia amounted to approximately ¥1.6 trillion, reflecting an ever-increasing trade and investment relationship.

In conclusion, the relationship between Malaysia and Japan has played a vital role in the economic development of both countries. The strong partnership continues to evolve, driven by mutual interests and shared goals, ensuring a bright future for bilateral cooperation and trade.
It is often said that statistics only tell half the story, and for anyone interested in investing in Malaysia, it’s well worth taking a closer look.

According to the International Institute for Management Development’s (IMD) World Competitiveness Yearbook, Malaysia was the 22nd most competitive market in the world — eight places from 2017. The southeast Asian nation has shown year-on-year increases in economic parameters limited to countries with a population of over 20 million.

Of the 63 nations surveyed for the IMD’s World Competitiveness Yearbook 2018, Malaysia was also listed as the 107th most digitally competitive nation. Meanwhile, the World Bank ranked it the 29th-easiest country out of 190 in the world in doing business — placing it above the likes of Japan, France, Belgium, the Netherlands and China.

Additionally, Malaysia placed 11th in Global Finance magazine’s listing of countries doing the most to attract foreign direct investment, just one place behind the United States.

As even more compelling a feature has been a through-the-room look at the World Economic Forum’s Asia-Pacific Economic Outlook, which places Malaysia as the 23rd most competitive of 137 nations ranked up two places from 2017. The World Economic Forum’s annual report noted that “Malaysia is entering into a new period that offers hope for a new era.”

Malaysia has successfully transformed itself from being an exporter of natural materials such as rubber and palm oil into a diversified economy whose key sector is services, which account for 54 percent of GDP.

According to the Malaysian Investment Development Authority, in order for Malaysia to continue its march toward “developed nation” status, “greater emphasis should be placed on the development of the services sector to serve as the engine of growth to propel and sustain the economy.”

The growth of the services sector is one of the few signs that one of the long-awaited tiger cub economies of Asia has grown into a shrewd adult, despite, or arguably because of its annual GDP growth falling to an average of about 3.2 percent since 2009, according to a report from the Malaysian Department of Statistics.

In the 1980s and ‘90s, Malaysia averaged economic growth over 6 percent. Peking in 1996 at 10 percent, making it one of the best performing economies in the region. The state suggests that a status it still enjoys.

In recent years, Malaysia has successfully transformed itself from being an exporter of natural materials such as rubber and palm oil into a diversified economy whose key sector is services, which account for 54 percent of GDP.

It’s people; big organizations setting up their offices, and seeing how the world is changing,” he said. “It’s not just about infrastructure, either; it’s people, big organizations setting up their offices, and opening up of Malaysia. We have all the ingredients to help set this up.”

Malaysia is one of the fastest-growing economies in the world. (GETTY IMAGES)

Malaysia Fair Tokyo 2018 will be held from Nov. 2 to 4.

The fair, which is free of charge, will take place in the Mizu no Hiroba area of Shinjuku’s Chuo Park. It is the first such event following the celebration of the 60th anniversary of Japan-Malaysia diplomatic relations last year.

It features a variety of attractions such as stage performances of traditional arts, experiential workshops of traditional Malaysian culture and a market is by offering an array of investment incentives.
MSC on moving energy to build a better world

MSC Berhad is a leading provider of international energy-related maritime solutions and services. Headquartered in Kuala Lumpur, its core businesses include ship management, marine engineering and services, offshore floating solutions, marine repair and conversion, and as a heavy construction and engineering company. The company has reaped the benefits of the changes in the shipping industry and is looking to expand its operations and reach new markets. However, the industry is facing challenges, including the need to reduce emissions and improve energy efficiency.

We have been moving energy to build a better world. We are a shipping company with a strong commitment to sustainability and environmental protection. We are constantly working to improve our operations and reduce our impact on the environment. We believe that it is important to ensure that our operations are sustainable and that we are doing our part to protect the planet.

How has the company evolved over the past 30 years? We started off in 1989 to support trade and economic development at the same time, promote the maritime sector for Malaysia. Malaysia's merchant fleet is part of the Petronas Group — Malaysia's national company. Over the years, we have been known as one of the strongest in terms of our expertise and commitment to our customers and partners.

MSC continues to leverage on an ecosystem approach in promoting investments and developing targeted industries. The ecosystem approach involves developing every part of the value chain to become more competitive. A new area in Malaysia, a new ecosystem is being established to attract new businesses and investment opportunities.
KHTP paves way for Japanese firms in Southeast Asia

Malaysia continues to be an attractive destination for foreign direct investment from around the world, especially Japan. The trend has been reinforced, especially after Mahathir Mohamad became prime minister for the second time in May after having held the same position from July 1981 to October 2003. He initiated the “Look East Policy” inspired by Japan during his first stint and is likely to revive it during his second.

According to the latest figures from (Japan) Ministry of Foreign Affairs, direct investment from Japan in Malaysia totaled $876 million in 2016 and initiatives such as the Kulim Hi-Tech Park (KHTP) have helped to smooth the way for Japanese companies looking to set up shop in the Southeast Asian nation.

KHTP is a strategic national economic development. Located in northern Malaysia in the state of Kedah, which includes the resort island of Langkawi and borders Thailand, KHTP is partially funded by the federal government and administered by the Kedah state government.

Since its opening as Malaysia’s first high-tech science park in 1996 and welcoming the Kedah state government. KHTP has been developed, with a further 2,000 hectares set to be developed in the KHTP Master Plan 2. With a large area of flat land, the opportunities for investment are ripe. Prime industrial land is available for long-term lease, while commercial space at several purpose-built centers can be rented.

Adding to the incentives to invest in KHTP is the fact that this prime industrial land comes already leveled, so construction can start immediately on the facilities in mind. With the flexibility that comes with an abundance of land, the high-tech park can cater to the spatial needs of each tenant.

The prime office space and buildings for rent at KHTP offer even more options for those wishing to conduct business in this park. These spaces can be rented by companies wanting to expand their offices, and they can continue their business activities with minimal disruption. Companies that offer services to park tenants are able to make use of this office space, providing visibility and ease of access. The office space is also perfect for organizations to establish branches to serve people in the high-tech park and surrounding areas.

Among other perks of doing business at the park are the attractive attractions of Kedah State itself, such as cultural, natural and historical sites. Green reserves have also been integrated into the plan. The acreage allowing people to work and live in a pleasant environment.

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As Malaysia and Japan mark the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, there has never been an easier time for Japanese companies to consider KHTP. Japan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, direct investment from Japan in Malaysia totaled $876 million in 2016. The state of Kedah, coincidentally, is known as the rice bowl of Malaysia since it is the major producer of the grain in the country.

Support for Japanese companies is prevalent throughout Malaysia. Among the recent visitors to KHTP was the JAPAN Chamber of Trade and Industry, Malaysia (JCTIM), which on May 17, 2017, conducted a research mission on the investment environment at KHTP. With such a strong and deep-rooted Japanese presence in Malaysia, doing business in the country has never been easier for Japanese companies.