

# MALAYSIA WEEKLY ECONOMIC NEWS

(8 July 2019 – 12 July 2019)

Topics	Highlights
<p><b>Chinese stock market still largely unexplored</b></p>	<p>China's huge domestic stock market, which has grown to become the second largest in the world, presents an attractive opportunity for investors, said Value Partners Ltd. The stock market, which is still largely unexplored by foreign investors, has become "far too big to ignore". The level of foreign ownership of stocks in the Chinese domestic stock market, also known as "China A-shares", is only at 3.5%. A-shares refer to stocks of China-based companies listed on its domestic stock exchanges – the Shanghai Stock Exchange and the Shenzhen Stock Exchange. The level of foreign ownership of these stocks is expected to rise rapidly to between 15% and 20% in the next 10 to 15 years.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Source: The Star, 9 July 2019)</i></p>
<p><b>Finance Ministry allocates RM5mil for matching grant fund for tourism promotion</b></p>	<p>Eligible tourism players can now tap into the newly established Malaysia Tourism Promotion Fund (Gamelan Malaysia) to help boost the industry this year. The Finance Ministry was offering a matching grant amounting to RM5mil to stimulate the industry via aggressive marketing and promotion strategies. The matching grant is offered in the form of reimbursable financial assistance where the eligible industry players could claim up to 50% of the actual total expenditure or RM200,000 maximum allocation per project category. Recipients who have used up the maximum RM200,000 allocation would no longer be allowed to apply for more funds.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Source: The Star, 9 July 2019)</i></p>
<p><b>Belt and Road Initiative offers US\$4-5 trillion in business opportunities</b></p>	<p>The business community should look out for investment opportunities in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) routes as total investments led by China are estimated to rise four- to five-fold from the initial US\$1 trillion (RM4.2 trillion). China's vast market has provided tremendous opportunities in trade, investment and business. Its deepening economic reforms and further opening up, coupled with its BRI programs and globalization policy, have opened up new investment opportunities and spurred the emergence of new trading zones, particularly along the BRI routes. In recent years, China has become an important source of foreign direct investment (FDI). Malaysian statistics show that China has been the largest FDI in its manufacturing sector for three consecutive years, having created some 73,500 jobs for Malaysians.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Source: The Star, 8 July 2019)</i></p>
<p><b>Sarawak digital economy strategy in early stages of implementation</b></p>	<p>Sarawak's digital economy strategy is now in the early stages of implementation, with various projects and initiatives being rolled out by the state government. Chief Minister Datuk Patinggi Abang Johari Tun Openg said one early initiative was an online identification and authentication system called Sarawak ID, which enables the public to access and use the state government's online services. "The Sarawak ID is the first step towards a service-based, people-centric government. Twenty government services are now online and registered Sarawak ID users benefit from the flexibility and ease of access to these services. Abang Johari said the state government had also implemented the Sarawak Pay e-wallet application for e-commerce purposes. He said Sarawak Pay was not profit-oriented but was aimed at the economic well-being of the under-served rural community in the state. As of June 30, Sarawak Pay had 91,640 registered users with transactions amounting to RM35mil.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Source: The Star, 8 July 2019)</i></p>