

# Our language diversity can connect investors to the world, says Ka Siong

By **Imran Ariff** - December 21, 2020 3:05 PM

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*Transport Minister Wee Ka Siong says Malaysia's ports continues to experience strong performance in spite of the pandemic.*

PETALING JAYA: Malaysia can be the window to connect investors to global markets due to the country's multiculturalism and variety of languages spoken.

Transport Minister Wee Ka Siong said this in his keynote address at the 2020 World Chinese Economic Summit, hosted in Kuala Lumpur, today, adding that it was one of Malaysia's key strategic advantages to countries and companies looking to expand their reach.

"Treat Malaysia as a window to penetrate the Asean market, the Middle East, as well as India.

"We have so many ethnicities and most of us are trilingual. We can communicate with 67% of the world's population," he said.

Wee added that Malaysia's ports continued to experience strong performance in spite of the pandemic, which he said further emphasises the country's strategic position.

"The twenty-foot equivalent units (cargo carrying capacity, or TEU) for Port Klang Free Zone is expected to increase by 53% compared with last year.

"Port Klang reached 1.3 million TEUs in November, a record high.

"This shows that even with the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic, our ports continue to grow steadily."

We also noted that the Malaysia My Second Home programme, which was suspended earlier this year, is under review by the home ministry with the hope that its next incarnation will be "more business-friendly" as the aim is to welcome everybody to come to Malaysia and invest.

"There's no reason why we should stop people from coming in."

The event was organised by the China Development Institute and KSI Strategic Institute for Asia Pacific. It brought together business leaders and analysts from across Southeast Asia and China.

Earlier today, in his keynote address at the same conference, Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin said that Malaysia will be a pro-business, investment and trading nation and stated the country's commitment to international partnerships.



*Transport Minister Wee Ka Siong.*