

**For immediate release**

## **TAN SRI LIM HOCK SAN REPRESENTS MALAYSIA AT 'LIANGHUI' ANNUAL MEETING IN CHINA**

*LBS Bina Group Managing Director Presents Proposal For Greater Malaysia-China Relations At China's Annual Parliamentary And Consultative Sessions*

**Petaling Jaya, 20 March 2017** – The Malaysian banner was flying proudly at China's annual parliamentary and consultative sessions organised by the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and National People's Congress (NPC) in Beijing recently. LBS Bina Group Berhad (LBS) Group Managing Director and Federation of Malaysian Lim Associations (FMLA) President, Tan Sri Lim Hock San, represented Malaysia at the landmark event, commonly known as '*Lianghui*', which is closely followed by global markets for future direction on the world's number two economy.

During the meeting with international delegates, Tan Sri Lim highlighted notable efforts by the Chinese community in Malaysia, following their migration, in preserving and promoting Chinese culture. He also highlighted the evolution of Chinese culture in Malaysia, citing examples like the popular 24 Festive Drums concept created by two talented Malaysians. To date, there are approximately 1,300 Chinese primary schools and 60 Chinese Independent High Schools, numerous Chinese Associations and media houses in the country.

In addition to expressing his optimism towards China's investments in Malaysia, Tan Sri Lim contributed a number of proposals at the meeting, namely:

1. For the "One Belt One Road" initiative to be taken to a higher level with the Chinese central government progressively promoting its strategies to people of various ethnicities in different countries.
2. For the Chinese government to strengthen its policies on food safety by enforcing the law on the catering industry, and taking action on unscrupulous food merchants to protect the safety, rights and interests of consumers.

3. Echoing Chinese Premier, Li Keqiang's call that agreements should not be changed indiscriminately, and newly appointed officials must not ignore the agreements made by previous officials.
4. For the improvement of the Chinese government system in order to strengthen the confidence of foreign Chinese investors abroad. Tan Sri Lim hoped that a system be put in place to enable foreign Chinese investors to follow-up on the status of stalled projects as a result of a change in leadership. He also put forward the importance of equal treatment among foreign and domestic investors by the Chinese government.

Following a discussion with the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council of China, Tan Sri Lim also put forward several suggestions regarding initiatives promoting international partnerships, namely:

1. The formulation of guidelines relevant to Malaysian Chinese investors, viewed as foreign investors of Chinese descent.
2. Simplifying the Chinese government's policies and complex procedures in addition to sharing more information about China with the Chinese associations in Malaysia. This is to help more Malaysian Chinese investors obtain accurate information and promote stronger trade bonds between both countries.
3. The need for greater collaboration between both China's Overseas Chinese Affairs department and Malaysian Chinese international associations to promote Chinese arts and culture in Malaysia. In addition, the allocation of funding or scholarships for Malaysian Chinese students to pursue further education in China should be considered.
4. The need for a clear differentiation of roles between the State Council's Overseas Chinese Affairs Office and the All-China Federation of Returned Overseas Chinese (ACFROC).
5. A suggestion to relax its visa procedures for Malaysian Chinese visitors to benefit the promotion of trade and cultural exchanges between both countries. The move will also ease the burden of Malaysian Chinese travellers who wish to visit their relatives.

In the discussion with ACFROC, Tan Sri Lim also highlighted the Malaysian government's support of the 'One Belt One Road' (OBOR) initiative through the established cooperation on various aspects at the government level. He cited the example of the establishment of Malacca and Guangdong province as twin cities. With both governments proactively establishing a clear framework through the OBOR initiative, Tan Sri Lim concurred that Malaysian and Chinese businessmen now have more opportunities to work together.

Tan Sri Lim also indicated that he was fortunate enough to participate in the establishment of Melaka and Guangdong as twin cities. He stated that he strongly believes that the twin city status will bring unlimited business opportunities to the governments and people of both countries, taking the China-Malaysia bilateral relations to the next level. He added that the establishment of the Melaka Cultural and Trade Centre in the Zhuhai International Circuit (ZIC) officiated in 2016, is set to boost the economic and cultural exchanges and development in both countries. As such, Tan Sri Lim took the opportunity to appeal for the prioritization of the project at the meeting.

Tan Sri Lim was among 38 non-voting Chinese delegates from 30 countries around the world who attended the 11-day meeting. He represented Malaysia in the exchange of ideas with leaders from various organisations in China including the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council Director, Qiu Yuanping; ACFROC Chairman, Lin Jun; China Zhi Gong Party Chairman, Wan Gang; National Committee of CPPCC Vice-Chairman, Wang Yajun; and CPPCC Vice- Chairman, Leung Chun-ying, among others.

“It was the ultimate honour to contribute to this year’s *‘Lianghui’* meeting as a Malaysian and a Chinese descendant. This was truly a once in a life time opportunity I will cherish for the rest of my life. I have gained much insight into the Chinese government policies in relation to foreign citizens of Chinese descent. I believe the China government will continue to develop the nation into a people-centred and practical country. China’s peaceful and steady development will in turn greatly benefit the economies of neighbouring countries and ultimately the world,” said Tan Sri Lim.

Bilateral trade between Malaysia and China from January to October 2016 hit RM191.65bil, up 1.2 per cent from the same period last year. Malaysia’s total trade with the world’s second-largest economy is expected to gain traction and reach RM443.78 billion this year. Meanwhile, the Tourism Ministry reported a total of 2.2 million tourists from China to Malaysia in 2016, with the average spending per traveller at RM3,500. This year, the ministry is targeting to attract three million tourists from China.

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