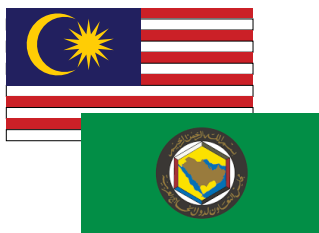




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# Malaysia - GCC Relations





## Key Domestic Developments

Malaysia operates under a federal constitutional monarchy and parliamentary democracy, with executive authority vested in the Prime Minister and the Cabinet. The Yang di-Pertuan Agong serves as the ceremonial Head of State, while legislative power is exercised through a bicameral Parliament comprising the Dewan Rakyat (House of Representatives) and the Dewan Negara (Senate). Political power is highly centralized at the federal level, though Malaysia's federal structure grants state governments authority over selected areas, including land, religion, and local governance. Since 2018, Malaysia's political landscape has been characterized by heightened fragmentation, coalition politics, and leadership turnover, marking a departure from decades of single-coalition dominance.

The 15th General Election (GE15), held in November 2022, produced a hung parliament, reflecting deep political polarization and voter fatigue with elite instability. Following post-election negotiations, Anwar Ibrahim was appointed Prime Minister at the head of a unity government bringing together ideologically diverse coalitions, including Pakatan Harapan, Barisan Nasional, and East Malaysian parties from Sabah and Sarawak. This broad-based coalition has provided parliamentary stability but has also required careful consensus-building across competing political interests, constraining the pace and scope of reform.

Against this backdrop, Malaysia has entered a period of political recalibration and socio-economic restructuring under Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's leadership. Between May and December 2025, the government intensified efforts to demonstrate reformist momentum while maintaining coalition cohesion, particularly in anticipation of upcoming state elections and amid rising public expectations. The administration sharpened its focus on institutional reforms, including anti-corruption enforcement, judicial governance, and civil service accountability, as part of a broader effort to restore confidence in

state institutions and reassert the credibility of the reform agenda following years of political turbulence.

Economically, the period has been defined by the rollout of Malaysia's fiscal consolidation strategy. The government advanced subsidy rationalization plans, initiating phased reductions in blanket fuel and food subsidies and replacing them with more targeted support mechanisms for vulnerable groups. Debates over the potential reintroduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) gained momentum, with policymakers framing it as essential for long-term fiscal sustainability amid slowing revenue growth. These reforms unfolded against persistent cost-of-living pressures, with inflation in key urban centers and wage stagnation continuing to affect lower- and middle-income households. Consequently, the administration placed renewed emphasis on wage policy adjustments, incentives for small and medium enterprises, and enhancements to the social protection system, including strengthening the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) coverage and expanding cash-transfer schemes.

On the domestic sociopolitical front, longstanding debates around ethnic relations, religious identity, and national language policy intensified in 2025, reflecting broader anxieties about social cohesion and representation. Issues such as vernacular education, Malay-Muslim political narratives, and affirmative action policies re-emerged in public discourse, often amplified by opposition parties seeking to mobilize support ahead of upcoming state-level contests. The government responded by advancing unity and inclusion messaging under the Malaysia Madani agenda while encouraging moderated political rhetoric and community engagement initiatives.

From an economic development standpoint, the implementation of the Madani Economic Framework gained further traction. The government accelerated programs related to digital transformation, green industrial expansion, and investment facilitation, including incentives aimed at positioning Malaysia as a regional hub



for semiconductor manufacturing, renewable energy technologies, and high-value services. By late 2025, Malaysia had also taken steps to strengthen climate resilience planning and to align its national policies with broader ASEAN sustainability commitments. These efforts reflect the country's attempt to balance domestic political stability with the urgent need to modernize its economy, manage fiscal pressures, and enhance long-term competitiveness amid heightened global uncertainty.

### Key Economic and Social Data

- **GDP (Nominal):** Estimated at USD 437–440 billion by end-2025, reflecting moderate growth supported by domestic demand and ongoing fiscal reforms.
- **GDP per Capita (Nominal):** Approximately USD 13,050 (2025 estimate)
- **Annual GDP Growth Rate:** Projected at 4.7–4.9% for 2025, slightly lower than 2024 due to global trade headwinds and subsidy rationalization measures impacting short-term consumption.
- **Inflation Rate:** Averaging 2.5% in 2025, driven by subsidy restructuring and higher transport and food prices earlier in the year before stabilizing in Q4.
- **Unemployment Rate:** Expected to remain low at 3.2% (2025), supported by strong labor market participation in services, manufacturing, and digital sectors.
- **Credit Rating:** Maintains BBB+ (Stable), with ratings agencies noting progress on fiscal consolidation but highlighting continued political and structural reform risks.

### Malaysia's Foreign Policy

Malaysia's foreign policy under Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim became more focused, outward-looking, and strategically calibrated through 2025, shaped in large part by Malaysia's role as ASEAN Chair and the intensifying pressures of

global geopolitical and economic fragmentation. By December 2025, Kuala Lumpur had positioned itself as a regional convener seeking to reinforce ASEAN unity, manage great-power competition, and strengthen Southeast Asia's economic resilience amid sustained U.S.–China rivalry.

As ASEAN Chair, Malaysia prioritized regional cohesion and institutional effectiveness, with particular emphasis on addressing the Myanmar crisis, strengthening supply-chain resilience, and advancing economic integration. Kuala Lumpur sought to reinvigorate ASEAN-led initiatives related to the digital economy, green standards, and cross-border connectivity, while also advocating for collective responses to external shocks, including renewed protectionist measures affecting Asian exports. Malaysia also played an active role in convening ASEAN dialogues on maritime security, energy connectivity, and economic competitiveness, reflecting its ambition to shape ASEAN's long-term strategic direction.

Beyond Southeast Asia, Malaysia pursued a policy of strategic diversification and balanced engagement with major powers. Relations with China were deepened through cooperation on green infrastructure, technology transfer, and industrial upgrading, while engagement with the United States focused on semiconductor supply chains, climate transition financing, and cybersecurity. Ties with the European Union gained momentum through discussions on regulatory cooperation, clean-energy partnerships, and renewed interest in a future EU-Malaysia trade framework. Malaysia's reaffirmed intention to pursue BRICS+ membership further underscored its effort to widen diplomatic options and reduce overreliance on traditional partners, while leveraging multilateral platforms such as ASEAN-GCC and ASEAN-EU to enhance its role as a middle-power bridge between regions.

On regional security, Malaysia continued to advocate for a more coherent ASEAN response to Myanmar, emphasizing humanitarian access, inclusive dialogue, and clearer implementation

of the Five-Point Consensus. It also invested in strengthening maritime domain awareness and counter-terrorism cooperation, particularly through regional partnerships and joint initiatives.

At the global level, Malaysia maintained principled diplomatic positions aligned with its domestic political identity. It remained vocal on Palestinian rights during periods of heightened tension, pushed back against Islamophobia in international forums, and reinforced its commitment to climate diplomacy, emphasizing equitable transitions and improved access to climate finance for developing economies.

By late 2025, Malaysia’s foreign policy had coalesced around three core pillars: active ASEAN leadership, diversified strategic partnerships, and values-based diplomacy. This approach reflects Kuala Lumpur’s effort to safeguard national interests while contributing to regional stability and adapting to an increasingly contested and multipolar international order.

**Malaysia Trade in Goods with GCC Countries (US Dollars, millions) (2023)**

Country	Exports	Imports	Balance of Trade
Bahrain	569.21	891.33	-322.12
Kuwait	1,238.82	3,753.06	-2,514.25
Oman	1,369.53	4,781.00	-3,411.47
Qatar	2,164.38	11,553.99	-9,389.61
Saudi Arabia	7,488.66	29,327.12	-21,838.46
United Arab Emirates	16,009.74	39,450.30	-23,440.56

**Key Research Centers and Think Tanks**

- [Institute of Strategic and International Studies \(ISIS Malaysia\)](#)
- [Khazanah Research Institute \(KRI\)](#)
- [Malaysian Institute of Economic Research \(MIER\)](#)

- [Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs \(IDEAS\)](#)

**Selected Key Regional Experts**

- *Dr. Azmi Hassan, Senior Fellow, Nusantara Academy for Strategic Research (NASR), Malaysia*
- *Dr. Shahrizan Lockman, Director, Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS), Malaysia*
- *Dr. Azmi Omar, President & CEO, International Centre for Education in Islamic Finance (INCEIF)*
- *Dr. Kristian Coates Ulrichsen, Baker Institute for Public Policy, Rice University*

**Key Recent Literature**

- [Malaysia’s Gulf Foreign Policy Challenges](#)
- [Malaysia–Saudi Arabia Relations: Roots, Dimensions, and Prospects](#)
- [GCC Economic Integration: Challenge and Opportunity for Malaysian Economy](#)
- [Essential Factors Influencing Malaysia’s Relations with the United Arab Emirates](#)
- [Malaysia–GCC Trade and Financial Linkages: Scope, Opportunities, and Potential](#)

**Key Developments in Malaysia-GCC Relations**

Malaysia-GCC relations have continued to accelerate through 2025, driven by expanding economic cooperation, renewed strategic alignment, and a series of high-level diplomatic engagements. The most significant milestone of the year has been the formal launch and first negotiation round of the Malaysia–GCC Free Trade Agreement (FTA), following its announcement at the ASEAN–GCC Summit in Kuala Lumpur. By December 2025, both sides had agreed on a preliminary negotiating framework, with working groups established on goods, services, investment, digital trade, and halal industry standards. The FTA reflects a shared ambition to deepen trade



flows, particularly in electrical and electronic products, semiconductors, agrifood and halal industries, palm oil, petrochemicals, and green technology supply chains. Bilateral trade reached USD 23 billion in 2025, marking a continued upward trajectory.

On the energy cooperation front, Saudi Arabia's ACWA Power advanced its landmark memorandum of understanding with the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA), moving into early feasibility and site-identification stages for renewable energy projects totaling up to 12.5 gigawatts by 2040. The initiative, which carries an estimated investment potential of USD 10 billion, aligns with Malaysia's national energy transition strategy and its long-term target of achieving 70% renewable energy in the power mix by 2050. Discussions have expanded to include green hydrogen, battery storage, and grid modernisation, positioning the partnership as one of Malaysia's most significant energy-sector collaborations with a Gulf entity.

Beyond bilateral economic cooperation, Malaysia and GCC states have intensified their political and strategic dialogue. 2025 witnessed increased engagement between Malaysia and Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Qatar, particularly on supply-chain security, food security, Islamic finance, and digital economy partnerships. Malaysia's ASEAN Chairmanship has further elevated its relevance to GCC actors seeking deeper institutional linkages with Southeast Asia. Joint working groups were activated to explore cooperation in halal certification harmonisation, counter-radicalisation initiatives, and maritime security coordination, areas where Malaysia and GCC states share mutual priorities. The expanding agenda reflects Malaysia's broader strategy of diversifying strategic partnerships while leveraging GCC investment flows and technological capabilities. For the GCC, Malaysia offers a politically stable, economically dynamic entry point into ASEAN markets, with strong complementarities in energy transition, logistics, and high-tech industries.



### Malaysia-Bahrain

- December 2025: Malaysia's Ministry of Defense and Bahrain's Ministry of Interior held a renewed round of security consultations, focusing on counterterrorism cooperation, intelligence-sharing frameworks, and exploring the possibility of structured training programs between military academies. Both sides noted the need to strengthen maritime



security coordination in light of escalating regional tensions affecting the Red Sea and Gulf shipping routes.

- November 2025: A Malaysian trade and investment delegation, led by the Malaysian Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry (MITI), visited Manama for the Malaysia-Bahrain Business and Investment Dialogue 2025. Meetings focused on: expanding bilateral investments in digital economy, fintech, and Islamic finance; Bahrain's interest in Malaysia's electric vehicle (EV) supply chain, and Malaysian companies exploring opportunities in Bahrain's logistics and tourism sector ahead of the 2026 Bahrain Vision initiatives.
- September 2025: On the margins of the 80th United Nations General Assembly, Malaysian Foreign Minister Mohamad Hasan met Bahraini Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullatif Al Zayani to review progress on bilateral cooperation. They reaffirmed commitments to accelerate work under the May MoUs and discussed joint positions on regional stability, maritime security, and multilateral reforms. Bahrain expressed interest in increasing student and academic exchanges with Malaysian institutions under a new education cooperation initiative.
- July 2025: Following the signing of the seven MoUs in May, Malaysia and Bahrain convened their first Joint Technical Committee (JTC) meetings in Putrajaya to outline implementation pathways for cooperation in Islamic finance, halal industry development, and semiconductor collaboration. Both sides agreed to begin drafting regulatory harmonisation plans for halal certification and to explore a Bahrain-funded investment facility targeting Malaysian technology SMEs.
- May 27, 2025: Following a bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim and Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Malaysia and Bahrain exchanged seven MoUs covering the following various sectors: Investment and trade, Islamic finance and banking, defense cooperation, halal industry development, semiconductor industry collaboration, agriculture and agri-commodities, and tourism and connectivity.
- May 26, 2025: Bahrain's Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, arrived in Malaysia to attend the 2nd ASEAN-GCC Summit. This visit underscored Bahrain's commitment to enhancing cooperation between the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and ASEAN member states.
- May 25, 2025: On the sidelines of the 46th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan held a bilateral meeting with Bahraini Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani. The discussion centered on strengthening bilateral ties and exploring avenues for regional collaboration.
- February 18–20, 2025: Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim undertook an official visit to Bahrain, where he met with King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and Crown Prince and Prime Minister Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa. During this visit, discussions focused on enhancing bilateral cooperation in various sectors, including trade, investment, and Islamic finance. Prime Minister Anwar also delivered a lecture at the inaugural Intra-Islamic Dialogue Conference and met with Bahrain's Minister of Finance and National Economy, Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa.
- December 23, 2024: Malaysia and Bahrain commemorated the 50th anniversary of their diplomatic relations. In a joint statement, both countries reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperation across various sectors, including trade, investment, energy, Islamic finance, and education. The statement highlighted the progress achieved and the shared aspirations for deeper partnerships in the future.



### Malaysia-Kuwait

- December 2025: In light of ongoing regional crises, Malaysian and Kuwaiti officials held consultations on humanitarian coordination, including joint contributions through international organizations. Kuwait also expressed support for Malaysia's proposal to expand ASEAN-GCC collaboration on disaster relief and humanitarian logistics, building on Malaysia's expertise in peacekeeping and regional disaster response.
  - October 2025: Kuwait's Ministry of Defence sent a technical delegation to Putrajaya for follow-up consultations on the F/A-18 Legacy Hornet acquisition proposal and broader military cooperation. Discussions included RMAF pilot training programs, maintenance collaboration, and joint participation in 2026 regional naval exercises. Both sides expressed interest in establishing a Defence Cooperation Working Group to institutionalize long-term collaboration.
  - September 2025: On the sidelines of the 80th United Nations General Assembly, Malaysian Foreign Minister Mohamad Hasan met Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya. The meeting reaffirmed commitments to: deepen political coordination within the ASEAN-GCC framework, increase cooperation on humanitarian relief, particularly on Palestine and Gaza-related assistance, explore joint scholarships and academic mobility programs.
- Kuwait welcomed Malaysia's interest in expanding educational partnerships with Kuwaiti universities and training institutions.
- July 2025: Following the ASEAN-GCC Summit, Malaysia and Kuwait held a virtual Joint Trade and Investment Dialogue coordinated between Malaysia's Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry (MITI) and Kuwait's Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Discussions focused on: expanding Malaysian halal food exports into Kuwait, cooperation in renewable energy and carbon-reduction technologies, opportunities for Kuwaiti investors in Malaysia's digital economy and logistics sector. Both sides agreed to begin drafting a roadmap for increased private-sector participation in 2026.
  - May 24–27, 2025: Kuwait participated in the 46th ASEAN Summit and the 2nd ASEAN-GCC Summit held in Kuala Lumpur. The Kuwaiti delegation was led by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, reflecting Kuwait's commitment to strengthening ties with ASEAN nations, including Malaysia. The summits focused on enhancing economic cooperation and addressing global trade challenges.
  - May 2025: Kuwait's Defence Undersecretary led a delegation to Malaysia to participate in the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA) 2025. During the event, the Kuwaiti delegation held high-level meetings with Malaysian officials to discuss defence cooperation and explore potential collaborations in the aerospace sector.
  - October 6–7, 2024: Malaysian Defence Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin visited Kuwait to strengthen bilateral defence cooperation. During his visit, he met with Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and Deputy Prime

Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah. Discussions included the potential acquisition of F/A-18 Legacy Hornet aircraft from the Kuwaiti Air Force by Malaysia. The Malaysian delegation also included Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) Chief General Tan Sri Mohd Asghar Khan Goriman Khan and senior officials from the Ministry of Defence.



### Malaysia-Oman

- November 2025: A high-level Omani business delegation, coordinated by Invest Oman, visited Malaysia to explore investments in manufacturing, halal pharmaceuticals, and logistics. Meetings with MIDA and Malaysian private-sector stakeholders focused on: co-investments in Malaysia's E&E and semiconductor supply chain, Oman's interest in leveraging Malaysia as a gateway to ASEAN markets, establishing joint funds for SME development in tourism and digital services. Pre-feasibility studies were agreed for renewable energy and halal industry projects.
- September 2025: On the sidelines of the 80th UN General Assembly, Malaysian Foreign Minister Mohamad Hasan met with Omani Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr Albusaidi. They reaffirmed commitments to deepen ASEAN-

GCC cooperation, discussed regional developments, including the situation in Gaza, and explored enhancing Malaysia-Oman collaboration in humanitarian relief, maritime stability, and economic diversification sectors.

- August 2025: A delegation from Oman's Ministry of Higher Education visited Kuala Lumpur to strengthen academic cooperation. Key outcomes included: discussions on joint research in maritime studies and environmental sciences, Oman's interest in sending students to Malaysian technical and engineering universities, plans to expand scholarships and faculty exchange programmes under an updated MoU expected in 2026.
- June 2025: Following the ASEAN-GCC Summit, Malaysia's Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry (MITI) and Oman's Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion held virtual consultations to operationalise cooperation in: halal industry and halal certification harmonisation, joint ventures in agritech and food security, renewable energy and green hydrogen, with Malaysia expressing interest in Oman's emerging hydrogen economy. Both sides agreed to form a Malaysia-Oman Economic Working Group to monitor progress.
- May 27, 2025: On the sidelines of the ASEAN-GCC Summit, Malaysia's Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof held a bilateral meeting with Oman's Deputy Prime Minister Sayyid Asa'ad bin Tariq Al Said. The meeting focused on enhancing bilateral relations and exploring opportunities for cooperation in various sectors
- May 25, 2025: Oman took part in the ministerial meeting between the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) held in Kuala Lumpur. Sheikh Khalifa Alharthy, Undersecretary for Political Affairs at Oman's Foreign Ministry, led the Omani delegation. Discussions



focused on enhancing cooperation in areas such as food security, energy, and economic integration between the GCC and ASEAN nations.

- April 22, 2025: The 48th Meeting of the ASEAN Committee in Muscat (ACM) was held, with participation from representatives of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism of Oman and Invest Oman. The meeting served as a platform to exchange views on strengthening ASEAN–Oman relations, particularly in tourism and investment.
- December 9–11, 2024: Malaysia participated in the High-Level Ministerial Segment hosted by Oman’s Civil Aviation Authority during ICAO Security Week in Muscat. The event addressed aviation security challenges and fostered international cooperation.
- August 12, 2024: Malaysian Minister of Tourism, Arts, and Culture, Dato Sri Tiong King Sing, met with Oman’s Minister of Heritage and Tourism, H.E. Salim bin Mohammed Al Mahrouqi, in Muscat. The discussions focused on enhancing cooperation in tourism and heritage, including increasing direct flights and expanding training programs.
- May 12–15, 2024: Tourism Malaysia conducted a sales mission to Oman and Qatar, aiming to boost tourism ties and showcase Malaysia’s offerings to the West Asian market. The delegation included travel agents, hoteliers, and product owners, facilitating business-to-business sessions and networking events in Muscat.



## Malaysia-Qatar

- November 2025: A high-level Qatari business delegation participated in a forum hosted by MIDA and the Malaysia–Qatar Business Council. Discussions covered co-investment in logistics, ports, and aviation services, Malaysian participation in Qatar’s digital economy and smart city projects, opportunities linked to World Cup legacy infrastructure. Multiple companies began preliminary talks on joint ventures in ICT, fintech, and tourism.
- September 2025: On the sidelines of the 80th UN General Assembly, Malaysian Foreign Minister Mohamad Hasan met with Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani. Discussions focused on: ASEAN–GCC cooperation follow-up, regional stability issues including Gaza and humanitarian relief coordination, boosting bilateral trade through targeted investment facilitation. Qatar reiterated its support for Malaysia’s role as ASEAN Chair in 2025.
- August 2025: Malaysia’s Ministry of Higher Education conducted meetings with Qatar Foundation and Hamad Bin Khalifa University. Key outcomes included: interest in joint research on food security, climate resilience, and Islamic finance, discussions on Malaysian student placements in Qatari research institutions, and plans to expand academic exchange programs beginning 2026.
- June 2025: A delegation from QatarEnergy and the Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) visited Malaysia for consultations with the Ministry of Economy and MITI. Discussions included: potential Qatari investment in Malaysia’s petrochemicals, LNG regasification, and renewable energy sectors, Qatar’s interest in Malaysia’s semiconductor and high-tech manufacturing ecosystem, collaboration under the ASEAN–GCC economic integration framework. Both sides agreed to establish a Malaysia–Qatar Energy and Investment Task Force.

- May 28, 2025: Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Dato' Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi received a delegation from the Qatar Chamber of Commerce. The meeting focused on enhancing bilateral cooperation in trade and investment, with discussions on activating the joint Qatari-Malaysian Business Council and exploring the establishment of a Malaysian trade office in Doha.
- May 27, 2025: His Highness Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani participated in the ASEAN–GCC Summit held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The summit aimed to strengthen strategic and economic ties between ASEAN and GCC member states.
- May 12–14, 2025: Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim undertook an official visit to Doha at the invitation of Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. During his visit, Prime Minister Anwar met with the Emir and other senior Qatari officials to discuss bilateral relations and regional issues. He also participated in the Qatar Economic Forum, engaging with global leaders on topics such as economic transformation and investment strategies.
- October 2024: The Malaysian Interior Minister attended the Milipol Qatar 2024 Exhibition and Conference in Doha. The event provided a platform for discussing advancements in homeland security and fostering international cooperation in security-related fields.



## Malaysia-Saudi Arabia

- September 2025: On the sidelines of the 80th UN General Assembly, Foreign Minister Mohamad Hasan and Prince Faisal bin Farhan held comprehensive political consultations. Discussions focused on: coordinating ASEAN–GCC economic architecture, regional developments in the Middle East, including Gaza and Red Sea maritime security, enhancing cooperation in multilateral forums, particularly the UN and OIC, boosting people-to-people exchange through academic and cultural programs.
- June 2025: A high-level delegation from Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Investment (MISA) visited Malaysia to explore opportunities in: semiconductor manufacturing and E&E supply chains, logistics and digital economy infrastructure, food security and agri-technology collaboration. Both sides agreed to establish a Saudi–Malaysia Investment Acceleration Task Force to identify flagship projects for 2026.
- May 29, 2025: Saudi Arabia's ACWA Power signed a memorandum of understanding with the Malaysian Investment Development Authority to develop up to 12.5 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity in Malaysia by 2040. This initiative involves an initial investment of up to \$10 billion and supports Malaysia's goal of having renewable energy comprise 70% of its power mix by 2050.
- May 25, 2025: During the ASEAN-GCC Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan co-chaired a bilateral meeting under the Saudi-Malaysian Coordination Council (SMCC). They reviewed progress in eight key areas: politics, trade and investment, security, defense and military, education, religious affairs, energy and environment, and socio-cultural cooperation. Both ministers



emphasized the importance of regular monitoring to ensure effective implementation of initiatives under the SMCC.

- November 2024: On the sidelines of high-level Islamic and multilateral consultations hosted by Saudi Arabia, senior Malaysian and Saudi officials held discussions focused on the Gaza crisis, humanitarian access, and coordination within the OIC framework. Both sides emphasized aligning diplomatic messaging among Muslim-majority countries and supporting ceasefire and reconstruction efforts through multilateral mechanisms.
- April 2024: Officials from Malaysia’s Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry (MITI) and Saudi counterparts engaged in investment-focused consultations, exploring opportunities in halal industries, food security, renewable energy, and downstream manufacturing. These discussions helped lay the groundwork for the more structured investment engagements formalized in 2025.



### Malaysia-UAE

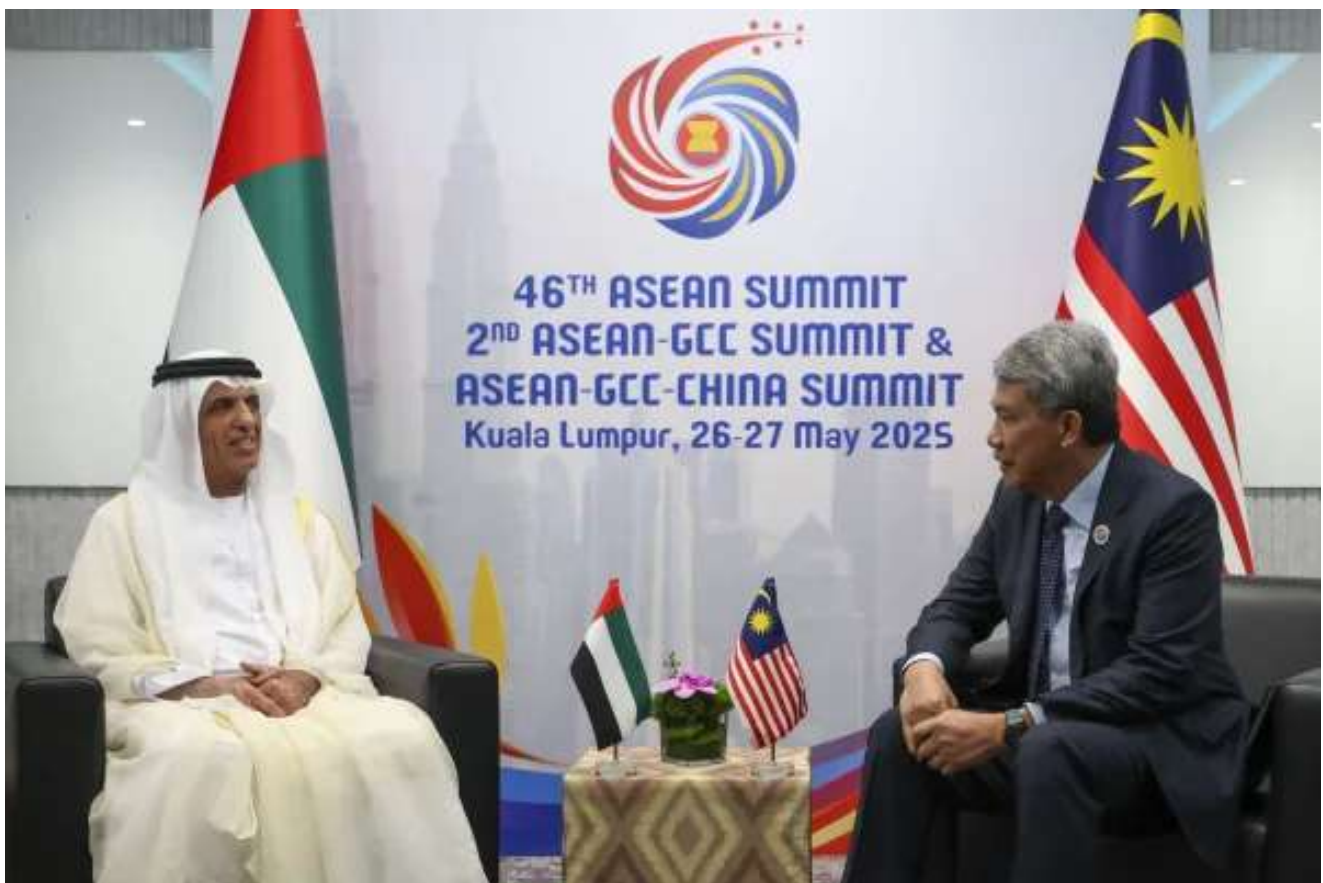
- October 2025: Malaysia’s Ministry of Energy Transition participated in a UAE-hosted UAE–Malaysia Renewable Energy & Hydrogen Forum discussing green hydrogen cooperation, carbon capture and storage technologies, UAE investments in Malaysian large-scale solar projects, and joint research under Masdar and Malaysian universities. Talks between the two countries advanced on developing a pilot green hydrogen corridor for industrial applications.

- July 2025: Led by Abu Dhabi Investment Office (ADIO) to Kuala Lumpur, a delegation from ADIO, along with representatives from Mubadala and ADQ, visited Malaysia to explore high-growth sectors: semiconductor manufacturing, artificial intelligence and automation, renewable energy supply chains, smart agriculture and food security. Malaysia proposed several projects under the Madani Economy Framework, and both sides agreed to conduct feasibility studies for co-investment funds targeting technology and green infrastructure.
- June 2025: Following the January signing, Malaysia and the UAE held their first CEPA Implementation Working Group meeting. Key outcomes included an agreement on CEPA tariff reduction schedules, formation of digital trade and services subcommittees, early discussions on mutual recognition of halal standards, and proposals to streamline investment approvals under a UAE–Malaysia fast-track mechanism.
- May 2025: The UAE actively participated in the second ASEAN-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Summit held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Representing President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, His Highness Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah, led the UAE delegation to this high-level gathering. On the sidelines of the summit, Sheikh Saud held a bilateral meeting with Malaysia’s Foreign Minister, Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan. The discussions centered on enhancing cooperation between the UAE and Malaysia across various sectors and strengthening coordination in international forums.
- January 12–14, 2025: Malaysian Prime Minister Dato’ Seri Anwar Ibrahim undertook an official visit to Abu Dhabi at the invitation of UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. During this visit, several memoranda of understanding (MoUs) were



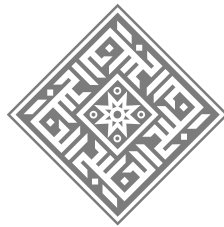
signed, focusing on investment, renewable energy, and trade. Additionally, Malaysia and the UAE signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) aimed at enhancing bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

- November 13–19, 2024: Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Dato’ Seri Dr. Ahmad Zahid Hamidi visited the UAE to strengthen bilateral relations. During the visit, discussions were held on enhancing cooperation in various sectors, including rural and regional development.
- June 4, 2024: The inaugural UAE–Malaysia Joint Committee meeting was co-chaired by UAE Minister of State Ahmed bin Ali Al Sayegh and Malaysian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohamad bin Alamin. The meeting focused on enhancing bilateral economic partnerships in sectors such as the economy, tourism, entrepreneurship, SMEs, fintech, innovation, transportation, renewable energy, logistics, agriculture, food security, environment, and infrastructure. The session concluded with the signing of the draft minutes and an agreement to hold the second session in Malaysia.



### GRC Supporting Documents

- [Developing Cooperation between the GCC and ASEAN](#), Layla Ali



# Gulf Research Center

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**Gulf Research Center  
Jeddah  
(Main office)**

19 Rayat Alitihad Street  
P.O. Box 2134  
Jeddah 21451  
Saudi Arabia  
Tel: +966 12 6511999  
Fax: +966 12 6531375  
Email: info@grc.net



**Gulf Research Center  
Riyadh**

Unit FN11A  
King Faisal Foundation  
North Tower  
King Fahd Branch Rd  
Al Olaya Riyadh 12212  
Saudi Arabia  
Tel: +966 112112567  
Email: info@grc.net



**Gulf Research Center  
Foundation**

Avenue de France 23  
1202 Geneva  
Switzerland  
Tel: +41227162730  
Email: info@grc.net



**Gulf Research Centre  
Cambridge**

University of Cambridge  
Sidgwick Avenue,  
Cambridge CB3 9DA  
United Kingdom  
Tel: +44-1223-760758  
Fax: +44-1223-335110



**Gulf Research Center  
Foundation Brussels**

4th Floor  
Avenue de  
Cortenbergh 89  
1000 Brussels  
Belgium  
grcb@grc.net  
+32 2 251 41 64



@Gulf\_Research Gulfresearchcenter gulfresearchcenter gulfresearchcenter

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