Malaysia to ‘further strengthen’ economic relations with Qatar

By Peter Alogos
Business Reporter

Malaysia and Qatar are doubling up efforts to strengthen both countries’ trade and economic relations, according to an embassy official, who stressed that the Southeast Asian nation “very much welcomes” the new legal reforms announced by the government aimed at attracting more FDI to Qatar.

“This is a very positive move not only for Malaysia but also for other countries looking at the potential that foreign investments could bring to the economy,” said Mohamed Shafir Sabarudin, charge d’affaires of the Malaysian Embassy in Qatar.

Sabarudin emphasised that the Malaysian Embassy in Qatar is expecting more Malaysian companies to invest in Qatar, citing the MoU between IIC and Atmosphere Projects, which aims to establish an institution in Qatar that offers education from the kindergarten to university level.

Besides, these are efforts being exerted by both countries so that trade and economic relations would grow further. Just recently, we had the Joint Trade Commission (JTC) where HE the Minister of Commerce and Industry Ali bin Ahmed al-Kuwari was in Malaysia.

This is the second JTC held by Qatar and Malaysia where both countries held many engagements and in different sectors that fall under the umbrella of the JTC, so we are looking forward to working towards that direction of having stronger economic relations between Malaysia and Qatar,” Sabarudin emphasised.

Similarly, Haron said, “This is our first time to venture in Qatar, and we must welcome these new laws announced by the Qatari government because it makes it easier for foreign companies to do business in Qatar. Looking at Qatar, the government welcomes many international companies and encourages them to do business there. For the MoU, Haron said IIC will focus on ‘bridging the gap between primary and secondary school with universities’.

Based on the study we made, there are more than 150 international schools in Qatar, and we ambition to offer education from primary to secondary and further to university level, and even up to students who want to pursue a master’s degree. The beauty about this collaboration is that we will provide a one-stop centre in terms of education,” Haron said, adding that IIC is one of the private higher education institutions wholly owned by the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM).

Rayess said the Islamic University of Malaysia in Doha will be built on 22,000sq m area in Umm Salal Ali with an investment of QR120mn, and is expected to accommodate 2,575 students. He said the project is a partnership between Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah Group and the IIUM, adding that construction work will start in January 2020.
People speak on their mobiles outside the Reserve Bank of India headquarters in Mumbai. The credit quality of Indian companies has plummeted to a record low as Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s government struggles to revive economic growth from a six-year low.

Bloomberg

Moody’s sees prolonged credit crunch in India

Moody’s Investors Service said it doesn’t expect the credit squeeze among Indian companies to result in widespread defaults, even as the nation’s bank system is under pressure to reduce its reliance on securitization, the firm said.

Moody’s says India’s banks have been hit by credit tightening, which could result in a continued rise in non-performing loans and a drop in the quality of new asset formation. Moody’s said the banks will improve their credit risk assessment and management, which will help them reduce the risk of further default

Bloomberg

Chinese bank skips early capital bond payment in rare move

A small Chinese lender made a rare decision to skip a capital redemption on its local currency bond, saying it faced funding pressures on the country’s most indebted companies, three people familiar with the matter said.

Moody’s analysis at Tiger Global Management Co.’s London office said it would assess whether the decision to forgo the early redemption on one note could extend to other notes. Moody’s said the decision could result in increased funding costs for the bank.

Bloomberg

Tencent buys 10% of Policybazaar, enters India insurance market

Tencent Holdings Ltd has acquired a minority stake in online insurance company Policybazaar, in a move that is seen as preparing the firm to expand into the Asian insurance market.

Tencent, which is the world’s largest gaming company, said it would pay about $100 million for the stake in Policybazaar, which is valued at about $1 billion. Policybazaar is valued at about $3 billion.

Bloomberg
China factory prices show signs of faltering, inflations sober

China factory prices show signs of faltering, inflations sober

Alibaba is said to add more banks for Hong Kong listing

Pakistan-China FTA to become effective from December

China's producer prices fell more than expected in October, adding to pressures on policymakers to act to avoid a sliding back to deflation, official data showed this week.

A producer pricing index (PPI), seen as a key indicator of corporate profitability, fell 1.6% in October from a year earlier, data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed, coming just four months after manufacturing prices fell 0.1% in June, the biggest monthly decline since July 2015.

Analysts had tipped a contraction of a 0.3% in October, seen as evidence that disinflation was over and that producers would start passing on cost savings from falling raw material prices, including those from the US-China tariff war, to consumers.

In contrast, China's consumer prices rose more sharply in October, driven mainly by a surge in pork prices, raising concerns about their impact on the country's dire public finances and aggravating the pressure on policymakers to act to avoid a sliding back to deflation.

Some economists worry that disinflation could become a concern for policymakers looking to introduce inflation-targeting frameworks.

The factory deflation was punctuated by strong industrial output growth, as the Chinese economy continued to improve, helping the country avoid a fall into a recession, while the US-China trade war, one of the biggest problems Japan faces, will also become more pronounced.

The rise was driven largely by a steep decline in the input prices, which fell 6.4% year-on-year, the most since June 2019, according to Bloomberg calculations.

Some economists said that disinflation should continue as the stimulus measures and the cut were by the lower end of a 6%-6.5% range for 2019.

A key Japanese economic index, the tankan, fell to minus 5 points in September from the minus 3 points in August, according to a Reuters poll, reinforcing the case for Beijing to keep the stimulus coming.

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The manufacturing sector in the US continues to perform strongly, driven mostly by a surge in pork prices, according to the US-China tariff war, one of the biggest problems Japan faces, will also become more pronounced.

China has approved the pre-mature activation of the free trade agreement with Pakistan that was signed in April 2019, said that the security situation stands improved in the country, which is ready to give tax benefits to the investors to invest in Pakistan.

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T he pound is unlikely to drop much further whatever the outcome of the country’s next election, with the FTSE 100 index closing up 0.3% on Friday after the December 12 vote to revisit the ratings controversy, according to a Bloomberg survey of 12 strategists and investors.

That is how their base case with a 9% probability, and where a Labour majority would muddle positioning for losses into the vote. Sterling has slipped in the past week and would open up the risk of capital flight by investors.

Black and White-Bloomberg asked survy
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ters to assign a probability and a pound level to the following two scenarios: a Conservative majority; a Labour coalition; an insurance vote; and an insurance vote that results in a second Brexit referendum that would spur a renewed rally.

A “black-and-white” approach in the survey is likely given this election may end up being historic for the pound and the entire political debate, said Stephen Quinn, head of strategy at the Bank of Montreal. “Now that there is a left of no-right coalition in the UK, how can you say how long it will take to work?”

The scenario when Labour comes into power with the backing of smaller parties is not necessarily benign for the pound, since the British currency will be unruly in the short term. The electorate panel consistently has said it would like to see a Conservative government.

“After consultations with the govern-
ment, it was decided to abolish the spec- ific regulatory requirements,” the press department of the Economy Ministry wrote in a statement. “The programme will be aimed at ensuring that financial products meet the needs of Russian consumers.”

Riding global temperatures pushing potentially devastating risks for Rus-
 sia, whose shrinking of the vast post-Soviet area covering 17 million square miles with the Arctic ocean has been a state priority in recent years.

An annual report by the Greenpeace International Arctic programme showed a 20% increase in the number of oil and gas exploration permits issued in the Arctic, according to the Arctic Oil and Gas Forum.

Despite having been to Russia on a number of occasions and knowing the country fairly well, I am not sure I would have felt any easier talking about another country's crude oil production, let alone how it would affect the world economy. The report noted that the Arctic is a region with significant oil and gas resources, including giant offshore fields. However, it also warned that these resources were unlikely to be exploited in the near future due to technical and environmental challenges.

Billionaire Howard’s star traders put his firm back on track

In its investment firms’ darkest days, with performance lagging and billions of assets flowing, Howard and his star traders were back on track.

Now, after a string of high-profile exits, they are back on track.

It took two years, but the start of December is looking like the end of the line for the firm.

The firm’s most durable hedge fund may be in the midst of a revolutionary idea to change the way the world works.

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Billionaire Howard’s star traders put his firm back on track

Russia scraps plans to set climate change goals for 2020, but still aims to have 80% of its emissions in line with Paris Accord

Russia has ditched plans to set greenhouse gas-emission targets for companies as a sign of commitment to fighting climate change, following criticism from business leaders that the goals were not ambitious enough.

The measure was part of a bill introduced in the Duma in March, warning they would lead to Russia missing the global carbon peak in 2030 predicted by the International Energy Agency. The bill also sought to curb emissions by requiring Russian companies to disclose their greenhouse gas emissions.

The bill’s stated purpose was to “ensure that Russia meets its obligations under international treaties on climate change.” It sought to require Russian companies to disclose their greenhouse gas emissions in line with the EU’s greenhouse gas registry.

Critics also argued the measure would be difficult to implement because it would require Russian companies to disclose their emissions to the public, which would be a violation of Russian law.

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Top Five Decliners

The trading value during the week, accounted for 47.2% of the total trading value. The industrials sector was the third biggest contributor to the overall trading value, accounting for 18.3% of the total. QNBK was the top value contributor with total trading value of QR1.03bn. Trading volume increased by 15.9% to reach 433.7mn shares versus 351.2mn shares in the prior week. The banks and financial services sector led the trading volume, accounting for 39.3%, followed by the real estate sector, which accounted for 30.9%. It is worth noting that the overall trading volume for the week was higher than the prior week.

On the other hand, Industries Qatar (IQCD) removed 14.4 points from the index. On the other hand, Qatar German Film Production (QCFS) was the best performing stock during the week with a decline of 14.5% on 41.9mn shares traded.

The worst performing stock for the week was for Medical Devices (QGMD) with a gain of 9.0% on 31.2mn shares traded.

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Technical analysis of the QSE index

The QSE index closed up by 0.84% from the week before at 10,249.56 level. The index kept moving inside the consolidation channel and bounced below the strong resistance, around the 10,600 level. We keep our expected weekly resistance level at 10,600 points and the 9,700 level as our weekly support.

Definitions of key terms used in technical analysis

Candlestick chart - A candlestick chart is a price chart that displays the high, low, close, and open for a security. The "body" of the chart is portion between the open and close price. The upper and lower "shadows" of the candlestick formations form the 'shadow'. The candlestick chart may have a different time frame. We use a one-day candlestick chart (very small candlesticks represent one trading day).

Doji candlestick pattern - A Doji candlestick is formed when a security's open and close are practically equal. The pattern represents indecision, and it is often based on preceding price actions suggesting a possible trend change. Doji candlesticks may indicate an sideways time frame. We use a one-day candlestick chart (very small candlesticks represent one trading day).
Ken Fisher has a side bet on a risky corner of Wall Street

US small-cap shares poised to benefit from shift of value

EU’s top bank regulator faces questions over Santander stock

Which financial markets did best from Berlin Wall’s collapse?
Bloomberg

**BUSINESS**

As of the end of October, less than a third of large actively managed US equity funds have beaten their benchmarks, compared with 41% in the first half of the year, and a third have underperformed the S&P 500. Among the best performers, the Technology sector was the only one to beat the benchmark, gaining an average of 17.8%. The worst-performing sectors were Energy and Real Estate, which had returns of -3.5% and -2.8%, respectively.

**Coal communities and the demonisation of Thatcher and Obama**

Coal communities remain among the most economically impoverished in the world, with poverty rates and worse outcomes for children and adults a common feature. The collapse of the coal industry has left deep economic, social and political scars in the region, with a third of large-cap actively managed US index-based equity mutual funds having suffered outflows for the first time. This trend is expected to continue, with the S&P 500 gaining 0.9% this week, reaching a record high.

**Coal and unemployment rates**

Some of the regions hardest hit by the decline in coal employment have seen a rise in unemployment rates. In the United States, the eastern coal towns have been particularly hard hit, with unemployment rates up from 4% to 6% in some areas. The situation is even worse in the United Kingdom, where Britain’s coal mining towns have seen a significant decline in employment.

**Coal and shareholder meetings**

Many shareholders have used their voting rights at coal companies’ annual meetings to push for changes in corporate governance and executive compensation. In the United States, shareholders have used their votes to elect directors who are more aligned with the environmental and social goals of the company. In the United Kingdom, shareholders have also used their votes to elect directors who support the transition to a low-carbon economy.

**Coal and government policies**

Governments around the world have taken steps to address the impact of the decline in coal employment. In the United States, the government has provided tax credits and other incentives to encourage the development of new industries in coal mining regions. In the United Kingdom, the government has provided funding for research and development of new technologies that could help coal mining regions transition to a low-carbon economy.

**Coal and climate change**

The decline in coal employment has been linked to a rise in greenhouse gas emissions. The burning of coal releases large amounts of carbon dioxide, a key contributor to climate change. The decline in coal employment has slowed the rate of decline in greenhouse gas emissions, but it is unlikely to reverse the trend. Climate change is a complex problem that will require a comprehensive approach to address.
Fed likely to ease monetary policy again, says QNB

The ongoing US economic slowdown and downside risks to sentiment are likely going to push the US Federal Reserve (Fed) to ease further. The Fed has indicated that it will ease rates further.

The target range for the federal funds rate, which is the benchmark rate that the Fed uses to influence the cost of credit for consumers and businesses, was last adjusted by the central bank in October, when it cut the rate by 25 basis points to a range of 1.50% to 1.75%. The reason for the cut was to "nullify the impact of global developments for the outlook as well as domestic factors for now.

This decision was widely anticipated. However, several factors that may impact the Fed’s action in December are worth watching, such as the outlook for China and the US, as well as the ongoing US trade negotiations.

The Fed is also expected to keep an eye on the potential for more global economic growth and the potential for a trade deal with China. These factors could influence the Fed’s decision to keep interest rates at record low levels.

As investors rotate from safer havens to riskier assets, several of the US government yield-curve反转 has returned to positive territory, with the benchmark 10-year Treasury note versus the three-month bill, which serves as the benchmark for the benchmark benchmark, turning positive again.

In addition, equity markets have risen, with global markets reaching new highs. The S&P 500 recently hit all-time highs, and the Dow Jones Industrial Average has also made gains.

The Asian Banker

Leading indicators of global demand

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QIB named 'Best Digital Bank in Qatar' by The Asian Banker

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The bank was recently awarded the 'Best Digital Bank in Qatar' by The Asian Banker. The award recognizes the bank’s efforts in introducing innovative and innovative products and services that simplify banking and improve the customer’s overall experience.

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