

The Economist

Putin's next move

Europe's Super League: a football fiasco

German politics get interesting

Why are SPACs being whacked?

APRIL 24TH-30TH 2021

India's covid catastrophe



Australia	AS12(Incl.GST)	Hong Kong	HK\$90	Korea	Won12,000	New Zealand	NZ\$15.00	Sri Lanka	Rs1,200
Bangladesh	TK550	India	₹400	Malaysia	RM30.00	Pakistan	Rs900	Taiwan	NT\$275
Cambodia	US\$9.50	Indonesia	Rp110,000	Myanmar	US\$9.50	Philippines	Pesos450	Thailand	Baht300
China	RMB80	Japan	¥1,259+Tax	Nepal	NR750	Singapore	S\$13.50(Incl.GST)	Vietnam	US\$9.50

KEEPING THE WHEELS TURNING: MALAYSIA'S ONE STOP CENTRE FOR BUSINESS TRAVELLERS

The OSC enables mission-critical overseas business executives and technical experts to quickly and safely enter Malaysia.

The past 12 months have been challenging. Economies contracted and trade suffered. Globally, trade in goods declined by about 6% and trade in services decreased by about 16.5%. Global GDP contracted by 3.5% during 2020, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF)—making the world roughly US\$3 trillion worse off. International investment flows, critical for the development of both developed and emerging economies, plunged.

During the height of the crisis, business travel became severely restricted as governments worldwide imposed travel restrictions, forcing investors and technical executives to work remotely. While most professionals adjusted to the new normal, the need for on-the-ground advice and counselling was acutely missed.

How did Malaysia overcome this impasse?



"The Malaysian government is currently undertaking additional initiatives to drive further foreign investments... such as easing operating of businesses through digitalising selected government services, providing tax incentives... and the implementation of a one stop centre (OSC) to facilitate the entry of business travellers into the country."

Arham Abdul Rahman, CEO, MIDA

MOBILITY MEASURES

To ensure investors and professionals have access to Malaysia's growing industrial base, the Government of Malaysia set up its One Stop Centre (OSC) for business travellers. The initiative allows senior executives and specialists to enter the country on either a short-term or longer-term basis.

Launched in October 2020 by MIDA, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), the Ministry of Health (MOH) and the Immigration Department of Malaysia, the OSC ensures the legitimacy and health status of travellers prior to their entry into Malaysia. A key component is the Business Travellers Centre (BTC), located at Kuala Lumpur International Airport. The BTC helps to create a seamless experience for business travellers arriving in Malaysia, providing fast-track services from arrival to departure, including disembarkation from flights, meeting and greeting by duty officers and liaison officers, RT-PCR swab testing to test for covid-19, immigration, and transport to accommodation and other destinations approved by OSC in advance.

A critical part of the arrival process is downloading the *MySejahtera* app—Malaysia's nationwide covid-19 track-and-trace

tool. With the app, business travellers will be able to monitor their health risk to the pandemic, as well as to provide the MOH with the necessary information to plan for early and effective countermeasures.

SAFE, CONVENIENT BUSINESS TRAVEL

For 20 years, the Malaysian operations of German steel components manufacturer Schmidt + Clemens have benefited from Malaysia's supportive policies, manufacturing ecosystem, world-class infrastructure, competitive talent pool, and intellectual property protection. The OSC enabled Mr Jan Schmidt-Krayer, CEO, Schmidt + Clemens, to enter Malaysia for three days during December 2020 as a Short Term Business Traveller, to help evaluate the company's long-term plans within the region. "The whole process was managed professionally," enthused Mr Schmidt-Krayer. "During my stay I was escorted at all times by a friendly MIDA representative. The entire experience was smooth, accommodating our scheduled agenda perfectly, and made it feel safe and convenient to travel during the current situation."

The OSC is pivotal in ensuring that Malaysia remains open for business. Not only does the OSC support economic growth, it balances public health and livelihoods, and strengthens Malaysia's position as a competitive and preferred investment destination within Asia. Combined with Malaysia's National Vaccination Programme, the OSC is playing an important role in Malaysia's value proposition and ensuring a frictionless

and productive flow of people, ideas and investment.

TRAVEL EASY, WORK SAFE

- Applications for Business Traveller entry takes **3 working days** to process
- **9,641 Long Term Business Traveller applications** have been evaluated, with 93.2 % (8,994 applications) recommended for approval, as of 5 April 2021
- **236 Short Term Business Traveller applications** have been recommended for approval, as of 5 April 2021

