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[GENERAL](#)
[POLITICS](#)
[BUSINESS](#)
[SPORTS](#)
[FEATURES](#)
[WORLD](#)
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| A+ A- | Reset | BG:

[Malay](#) | [English](#) | [中文](#) | [عربي](#)

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SEARCH

GO

 News  
 Who's Who

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## Malaysian Investors Invited To Tap Business Potential In Kazakhstan

KUALA LUMPUR, June 1 (Bernama) -- Kazakhstan is inviting Malaysian investors to tap the huge business potential in that country, especially in the pharmaceutical, agriculture, construction, Islamic finance and food security sectors.

"Businessmen should not only seek to tap into the oil and gas sector as there are other areas of opportunities, including machinery and green technology.

"For example, we import a lot of machinery items from abroad and this is an area that can be ventured into," Kazakhstan's Ambassador to Malaysia, Beibut B. Atamkulov told Bernama in an interview.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak is scheduled to make an official visit to Kazakhstan from June 5-6 to provide further impetus to the development of closer and beneficial relations between both nations.

Najib will also attend the Seventh World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF) in Astana from June 7-9.

Atamkulov said the prime minister's visit will see more agreements inked between the two countries to set the platform for trade and investment linkages to move to a significantly higher level.

He said this next stage in bilateral trade relations between both countries would open up great opportunities for Malaysian businessmen as well as for the Kazakhstan business community.

A former Soviet Union-governed nation in the heart of Euro-Asia, Kazakhstan will also concurrently chair the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) during the WIEF.

On another note, the ambassador said after 12 years, Kazakhstan and Malaysia would convene the second Joint Trade Economic Committee (JTEC) meeting on June 6 during the WIEF.

"After so many years, this meeting will open up more channels for businessmen," he added.

The Malaysian delegation to the meeting will be led by the Minister of International Trade and Industry, Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed while Kazakhstan will have its Minister of Trade and Economic Cooperation at the helm.

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