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**MEDIA STATEMENT  
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**Liow: Malaysia's Views Much Sought After at International  
Forum on Rail**

Malaysia was honoured to be invited to participate in the Railway Cooperation & Development Forum on June 20, 2016, held in Beijing, China. The forum was organised in conjunction with Modern Railways 2016, hosted by China Railway. During this event, I had the pleasure of meeting with HE Yang Chuantang, Minister of Transport China and Lu Chunfang, Deputy General Manager of China Railway.

With close to 200 participants from around the world, this was the largest railway event in Asia Pacific featuring the latest in terms of railway technology, systems, equipment and more. The event brought together industry leaders as well as policymakers from China, Europe, USA, and of course, Malaysia, onto a single platform focused on the rail sector.

Given the rail prospects within ASEAN and Malaysia, this forum was indeed timely. Transport infrastructure is a key driver of the ASEAN economy, and expenditure for the development of rail infrastructure in ASEAN alone is projected to be approximately USD119 billion by 2020.

Our nation's rail sector is one of burgeoning potential, and the Government of Malaysia is committed to supporting its continued growth. We have allocated RM160 billion towards the development of new railway lines, including the MRT project, the extension of LRT lines, as well as the Electrified Double Track Project linking Negeri Sembilan to Johor.

Similarly, the Malaysia-Singapore High Speed Rail (HSR) project holds great prospects. The HSR project is also in line with the Singapore-Kunming Rail Link which will link ASEAN nations with China, as part of the One Belt One Road initiative. Malaysia certainly stands to benefit immensely from this initiative.

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