



## **AMCHAM SINGAPORE STATEMENT ON THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF MALAYSIA'S MOVEMENT CONTROL ORDER**

**Tuesday, March 17, 2020** - The American Chamber of Commerce Singapore (AmCham Singapore) is supportive of some of the measures of the movement control order that the Malaysian government announced on Monday, March 16, 2020 to stop the spread of Covid-19. These measures demonstrate the seriousness of the Malaysian government in preventing and slowing further spread of the disease.

AmCham Singapore would like to highlight that efforts to contain the infectious disease should be implemented in a manner that minimizes the economic impact of the movement control order, which prevents people from crossing the Causeway. The current policy will have an impact on both the economies of Malaysia and Singapore, and specifically have a dire impact on the State of Johor Darul Ta'zim.

Each day, more than 200,000 Malaysians, mainly from Johor, make their way to work in factories and offices across Singapore. Their hard work and earnings contribute a significant part of the bilateral economic exchange between the two countries. The movement control order will also inadvertently degrade both countries' ability to effectively combat Covid-19, as stopping the flow of people will also impede the flow of healthcare workers and medical supplies between the two countries.

AmCham member companies urgently depend on the continued flow of people and goods across the border as both countries and economies are interdependent.

We call for special exemptions to the movement control order to be made for Malaysian workers who work in Singapore, given the significant precautionary measures taken by workplaces in Singapore to run operations safely and in compliance with global measures, and the efforts of the authorities to contain the virus through active contact tracing. These exemptions should prioritize workers that provide essential services such as healthcare, financial services, manufacturing, including healthcare and personal protective equipment, security, waste management and cleaning, and are not able to provide these services through remote options.

We are confident that both governments will do what is best to maintain international business confidence and ensure the health and safety of the people within their borders. Our member companies also offer themselves as a partner to support recovery planning by the respective ministries.

**Dwight Hutchins**

Chairman, AmCham Singapore

***About AmCham Singapore***

Established in 1973, the American Chamber of Commerce in Singapore (AmCham Singapore) is the largest and the most active international business association in Singapore and Southeast Asia, with over 4,700 members representing more than 600 companies. Our Chamber is comprised of 13 industry-specific committees and conducts nearly 200 events per year.

AmCham is a forward-thinking, business-progressive association. Our mission is to create value for our members by providing advocacy, business insights, and connections. Our membership includes American companies and Singaporean and third-country companies with significant U.S. business interests. AmCham is an independent, non-partisan business organization. We are a member of the 28-chamber-strong AmChams of Asia Pacific (AAP).

Our goal is to provide the information and facilitate the access and connections that give members insight into the local, regional, and global operating environment, enhance their 4 professional capabilities, and enable them to make well-informed business decisions. For more information about AmCham Singapore, visit [www.amcham.com.sg](http://www.amcham.com.sg).

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