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Work together to promote the Malaysia-China Kuantan Industrial Park to a new glory (to jointly build the "Belt and Road")

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An aerial view of Malaysia-China Kuantan Industrial Park.

Photo courtesy of Beibu Gulf Holdings (Malaysia) Co., Ltd.



Back to
top



Workers at the Consolidated Steel Works on
the workshop.

Photo courtesy of United Steel (Malaysia)
Group Corporation

It takes more than 3 hours to drive from Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia, to Kuantan, the capital of Pahang state. This quiet town is located in the special economic zone on the east coast of Malaysia, adjacent to Kuantan Port, where the Kuantan River winds its way to the sea. In February 2013, the Malaysia-China Kuantan Industrial Park was officially opened. Together with the China-Malaysia Qinzhou Industrial Park, it has created a model of "two parks in two countries". Over the past 10 years, as a model of China-Malaysia cooperation in building the "Belt and Road", the Malaysia-China Kuantan Industrial Park has not only promoted China-Malaysia practical cooperation, but also deepened the friendship between the two countries.

"One of the most successful industrial parks in the East Coast Special Economic Zone"

In 2014, President Xi Jinping proposed that "to
align with their respective development strategies,

[Back to](#)

[top](#)

Qinzhou and Kuantan industrial parks should be built into flagship projects for China-Malaysia cooperation and demonstration zones for China-ASEAN cooperation." Around this goal, China and Malaysia have launched close cooperation.

Today, the construction of the Malaysia-China Kuantan Industrial Park has achieved fruitful results: a total of 12 projects have been signed, with a total investment of more than 40 billion yuan, a total industrial output value of more than 35 billion yuan, and about 5,000 long-term jobs. Dangang has an annual throughput of 10 million tons...

"In the past 10 years, the Malaysia-China Kuantan Industrial Park has become one of the most successful industrial parks in the East Coast Special Economic Zone." said Pak Chawi, CEO of the East Coast Special Economic Zone Development Council of Malaysia, "Malaysia and China' two countries, two parks" The pattern is successful."

The success of the Kuantan Industrial Park is inseparable from the hard work of the builders.

United Steel is the first project to settle in the industrial park, and it only took 18 months from

[Back to](#)

[top](#)

the start of the project to the completion of the whole process production line. Today, the annual production capacity of the United Iron and Steel project has exceeded the designed capacity of 3.5 million tons. It is one of the largest and most advanced full-process iron and steel enterprises in Malaysia, and its products are sold globally.

Recalling the scene when he first arrived in Kuantan, Hu Jiulin, deputy general manager of United Steel (Malaysia) Group Co., Ltd., still remembers it vividly, "When I came here in 2014, it was a mountain and swamp, and it took more than a year for the earthwork alone. time." Pointing to his office, he sighed to our reporter: "Who would have thought that the place where this office building is located used to be a mountain." Today, the roads in the factory area are wide and tidy, and office buildings, workshops, and dormitories are lined up one after another.

"The process design and equipment of the United Steel project are all from China, using the most advanced and the best in the industry." Hu Jiulin said that a local official came to visit United Steel and asked as soon as he entered the park: "Your environment here is clean and tidy. Why doesn't it look like a steel factory?" The official

[Back to top](#)

was surprised to learn that the environmental indicators of the project were higher than the local standards, and that waste heat and waste gas generated during the production process were collected for power generation, realizing circular economy, energy conservation and emission reduction. Big eyes.

United Steel currently has more than 4,000 employees, most of whom are locals, and their salaries are much higher than the local average wages. Kelly, a young Malaysian who works here, said that the development of the east coast where Kuantan is located is relatively backward, and local residents, especially young people, used to go to the relatively developed west coast to find jobs. Now, he can work in the industrial park nearby, and his living standard has improved significantly. "Some of our families have four or five members who work in the industrial park."

Pechawi said that the development of the Kuantan Industrial Park has promoted investment from both Malaysia and China, and at the same time created local jobs in various fields from production to management. During the development of the park, local contractors and

Back to
top

suppliers were also involved, and a large number of local SMEs benefited from it.

"I saw professionalism and hard work from my Chinese partners"

At the wharf of Kuantan Port, the turquoise sea water gently washes against the coast, the ship unloader stands tall, the containers are neatly arranged, the newly delivered materials such as iron sand, coking coal, etc. are stacked in an orderly manner, and the bucket wheel stacker reclaimer shuttles back and forth... ..it's a modern, professional marina.

Kuantan Port is the largest port on the east coast of Malaysia and an important support for the development of Kuantan Industrial Park. In order to speed up the development of the eastern coastal area, the Malaysian government has listed Kuantan Port as one of the key development ports. In 2013, China's Guangxi Beibu Gulf International Port Group Co., Ltd. became a shareholder of Kuantan Port. The joint efforts of China and Malaysia have brought new vitality to this port with a history of more than 40 years.

[Back to](#)

China and Malaysia cooperate to upgrade Kuantan Port and jointly plan and develop a new

[top](#)

port area. According to Ye Jingtao, general manager of operations of Kuantan Port Co., Ltd., the local equipment supply is limited, and Xingang's equipment such as ship unloaders, bucket wheel stackers and reclaimers, and belt conveyors are all from China. To this end, Chinese companies have specially trained local employees, and organized employees to observe and learn from Chinese ports.

Malaysian employee Sinapan has been working in Kuantan Port for more than ten years. He said that after the arrival of Chinese companies, port operations have become more automated and unloading has accelerated. Before 2018, only 8,000 tons of goods could be unloaded a day, but now it reaches 30,000 to 40,000 tons a day. "From how to deal with the concentration of ships arriving at the port, how to manage the yard well, and how to operate and maintain equipment... Chinese partners have imparted a lot of good experience." Sinapan said, "I have seen from the Chinese partners Professionalism and hard work." Maslin, Chief Commercial Officer of Kuantan Port Co., Ltd. sighed: "It is the Chinese partner who provides technology transfer and improves our level in all aspects."

[Back to top](#)

In 2015, the throughput and operating income doubled. In 2018, it became the largest public bulk cargo terminal in Malaysia, and invested in the construction of two 150,000-ton deep-water terminals... With the joint efforts of China and Malaysia, the throughput of Kuantan Port Capabilities are constantly refreshed.

After the Chinese side became a shareholder, Kuantan Port has increasingly close cooperation and business exchanges with Chinese partners. In 2014, Qinzhou Port and Kuantan Port officially became sister ports, which opened the prelude to cooperation between the two parties in many fields. The container international direct flight between the two ports has been opened, and the direct flight time has been greatly reduced. China and Malaysia have also established a joint investment promotion team to jointly promote Kuantan Port to Chinese companies. The completion of projects such as United Iron and Steel Co., Ltd. has driven the transition of Kuantan Port to the "port-industry-park" joint development model.

With the accelerated construction of the New Land-Sea Corridor in western China, Kuantan Port will usher in new opportunities. Ye Jingtao said

Back to
top

that the connection between the Western New Land-Sea Corridor and Qinzhou Port will expand the economic hinterland of Qinzhou Port and Kuantan Port. Traditionally, it may take more than 35 days to go from Kuantan Port to Western China via ports in eastern China, but if you go from Kuantan Port to Qinzhou Port and then transfer to Western China by railway, it will take less than two weeks at the fastest. "This will greatly facilitate the trade between China and Malaysia."

"Our hearts have been closer since then"

The construction of the Malaysia-China Kuantan Industrial Park has created more stories of people-to-people bonds.

With the increasingly frequent exchanges, Qinzhou City and Kuantan City have become international sister cities. Since 2016, the two cities have taken turns to hold "Two Cities Double Day" activities, that is, "Qinzhou Day" in Kuantan and "Qinzhou Day" in Qinzhou Kuantan Day" to further deepen the mutual understanding between the two peoples by holding cultural evenings and youth exchange activities.

[Back to](#)

Fu Zhiya, Deputy Minister of Domestic Trade and Cost of Living of Malaysia, said that local

[top](#)

employees and Chinese partners work and live together, and their mutual understanding is deepening. "Malaysia-China Kuantan Industrial Park has played an important role in promoting cultural exchanges."

Kelly is a native of Kuantan. During the construction of the Kuantan Industrial Park, he was still studying. Every time he passed by here, he was full of curiosity. "I would say hello in broken Chinese from time to time, and I could always get a friendly response from Chinese employees." Kelly said that at that time, he secretly made up his mind that he would come to work here in the future, and he became more motivated to learn Chinese. After graduation, he got his wish and got the opportunity to go to China for training. Because he is proficient in Chinese, Kelly took the initiative to "part-time" teach languages to employees from the two countries. "Our hearts have been closer since then."

In a Malay restaurant in Kuantan, when the boss saw the Chinese employees coming to eat, he happily greeted them, and his son followed suit. "At the beginning, when I went to this restaurant to eat, his son was only a few months old, and now he is almost a young man." Ye Jingtao said hello to

Back to
top

the local Malay people who came to eat, "Stay here After a long time, I often come to this restaurant to eat, and everyone is very close when we meet."

After get off work in the evening, in the huge campus, Chinese and Malaysian employees in twos and threes talked and laughed together to the dormitory and restaurant. Ina, a Malay girl, said that sometimes everyone went for a walk or played badminton together after dinner.

There is a proverb in Malaysia, "Climb together when you meet a mountain, and cross a ditch together when you meet it." This is precisely the vivid portrayal of China-Malaysia friendship. During the COVID-19 epidemic, the enterprises in the Kuantan Industrial Park donated about 2 million masks, a large amount of protective clothing, alcohol and other anti-epidemic supplies to Malaysia to cheer for Malaysia's fight against the epidemic.

Pechawi said that with the formal entry into force of the "Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement", the "two countries and two parks" are expected to establish a more complete industrial chain and supply chain between Malaysia and China, and deepen the

Back to
top