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# Malaysia can be next logistics hub in Asean

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**KUALA LUMPUR** — Malaysia will be the next Asean logistics hub if the country leverages on its capabilities, said chief executive of Northern Corridor Implementation Authority (NCIA), Datuk Redza Rafiq.

“Malaysia has to leverage on its logistics advantage in the northern region, where two-thirds of all south Thailand exports pass through the gateways of Padang Besar, Bukit Kayu Hitam dan Pengkalan Hulu,” he said.

These three gateways have handled two-thirds of Thai exports for the entire 40-year duration of operations.

During this period, the northern region has served as the gateway for the delivery of precision products and engineering-based products, which has led to an evolution in the logistics sector.

“The logistic sector in Malaysia is now adapted and sufficiently skilled at doing logistic processes, with no problems in sight for the delivery of products,” he said.

Redza said Malaysia needs to examine how it can use its logistics hubs to take the sector to the next level, especially in terms of know-how, which consists of two key characteristics: technology push and economic liberalisation.

“We must equip the logistics sector with more tools, more capabilities and more support from research and development (R&D), which is important to move the things forward,” said Redza during the Asean Logistics Symposium programme.

Dean of Universiti Utara Malaysia’s School of Technology Management & Logistics, Professor Dr Zulkifli Mohamed Udin, said Malaysia’s resources, strategic location and land places it in an advantageous position to be the next logistics hub in Asean region.

This programme is a collaboration between the centre for Asean Logistics Studies (CALs), University of Hull from England, Universiti Utara Malaysia and home-grown ALC College.