

2021 MALAYSIA- CHINA RELATIONS SURVEY REPORT



INTRODUCTION

The Coronavirus has ravaged the world since its outbreak in January 2020. The pandemic has drastically impacted people's livelihood, changed every aspect of our life, and devastated the global economy. The roll-out of vaccines has effectively helped in containing the spread of the virus and reduced the fatality rate. Malaysia is no exception.

Malaysia and China have a long and cordial relationship with close economic ties. Upon successfully containing the spread of the coronavirus, China was quick in providing assistance to Malaysia in the fight against COVID-19 by sharing its experience and expertise and supplying the much-needed PPEs. In fact, Malaysia was on the priority list of countries to receive donation and supply of Chinese vaccines.

The objective of this survey is to understand the acceptance level of China-made vaccines by Malaysians, how Malaysia-China collaboration in COVID-19 vaccine and other factors have influenced the perception of Malaysians regarding the relations between the two countries, and the views and anticipation of Malaysians as to the key areas of cooperation between the two countries that will be enhanced post pandemic.

INTRODUCTION (Cont.)

This survey covered the following areas:

- The acceptance level of the China-made vaccines
- Malaysians' perception of China in general and of Chinese companies in Malaysia post vaccine cooperation
- Impact of the South China Sea dispute on Malaysians' perception of China
- The aspirations of Malaysians on Malaysia-China cooperation post COVID-19 pandemic

This survey is a joint project of the Centre for New Inclusive Asia (CNIA) and the China-ASEAN Research Institute of Guangxi University, China, and conducted by UCSI Poll Research Centre.

METHODOLOGY

The 2021 Malaysia-China Relations Survey was conducted online across Malaysia. The sample was stratified based on region (central, northern, southern, east coast, and east Malaysia)* and socio-demographics (ethnicity, gender and age group). The survey was conducted from 30 July 2021 to 22 September 2021.

The questionnaire was available in three languages (English, Bahasa Malaysia and Chinese). The respondents might choose their preferred language in completing the questionnaire. A total of 1,667 respondents participated in the online survey.

Note:

** Central region – Selangor, F.T. Kuala Lumpur, F.T. Putrajaya ; Northern region – Kedah, Perak, Perlis, Pulau Pinang ; Southern region – Johor, Malacca, Negeri Sembilan ; East coast – Kelantan, Pahang, Terengganu ; East Malaysia – Sabah, Sarawak, F.T. Labuan*

1. SOCIO- DEMOGRAPHICS

Socio-demographics of respondents



SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHICS

This section shows the profile of the respondents.

The survey received a total of 1,667 respondents from across Malaysia, of whom 82% were from Peninsular Malaysia and 18% from East Malaysia. The distribution of the respondents by region and socio-demographic variables are shown in Table 1 and Table 2.

Table 1: Distribution of Respondents by Region, Gender, Age Group and Ethnicity

Region*	Central: 31.3%	Northern: 19.1%	Southern: 19.2%	
	East Coast: 12.2%	East Malaysia: 18.2%		
Gender	Female: 53.0%	Male: 47.0%		
Age Group	21-30 years: 24.3%	31-40 years: 27.7%	41-50 years: 28.5%	51 years and above: 19.5%
Ethnicity	Malay: 50.6%	Chinese: 32.3%	Indian: 11.4%	Others: 5.7%

Note:

* Central region – Selangor, F.T. Kuala Lumpur, F.T. Putrajaya ; Northern region – Kedah, Perak, Perlis, Pulau Pinang ; Southern region – Johor, Malacca, Negeri Sembilan ; East coast – Kelantan, Pahang, Terengganu ; East Malaysia – Sabah, Sarawak, F.T. Labuan

Table 2: Distribution of Respondents by Education Level, Occupation and Area of Residence

Education Level	University/ Professional Qualification: 65.2%	Secondary School: 25.2%	Primary School: 6.5%	No formal Education: 3.1%
Occupation	Private Sector: 35.1%	Public Sector: 17.1%	Self Employed: 23.6%	
	Student: 17.1%	Retired: 6.4%	Unemployed: 0.7%	
Area of Residence	Urban: 50.2%	Semi-urban: 43.3%	Rural: 6.5%	

2. CHINA-MADE VACCINES

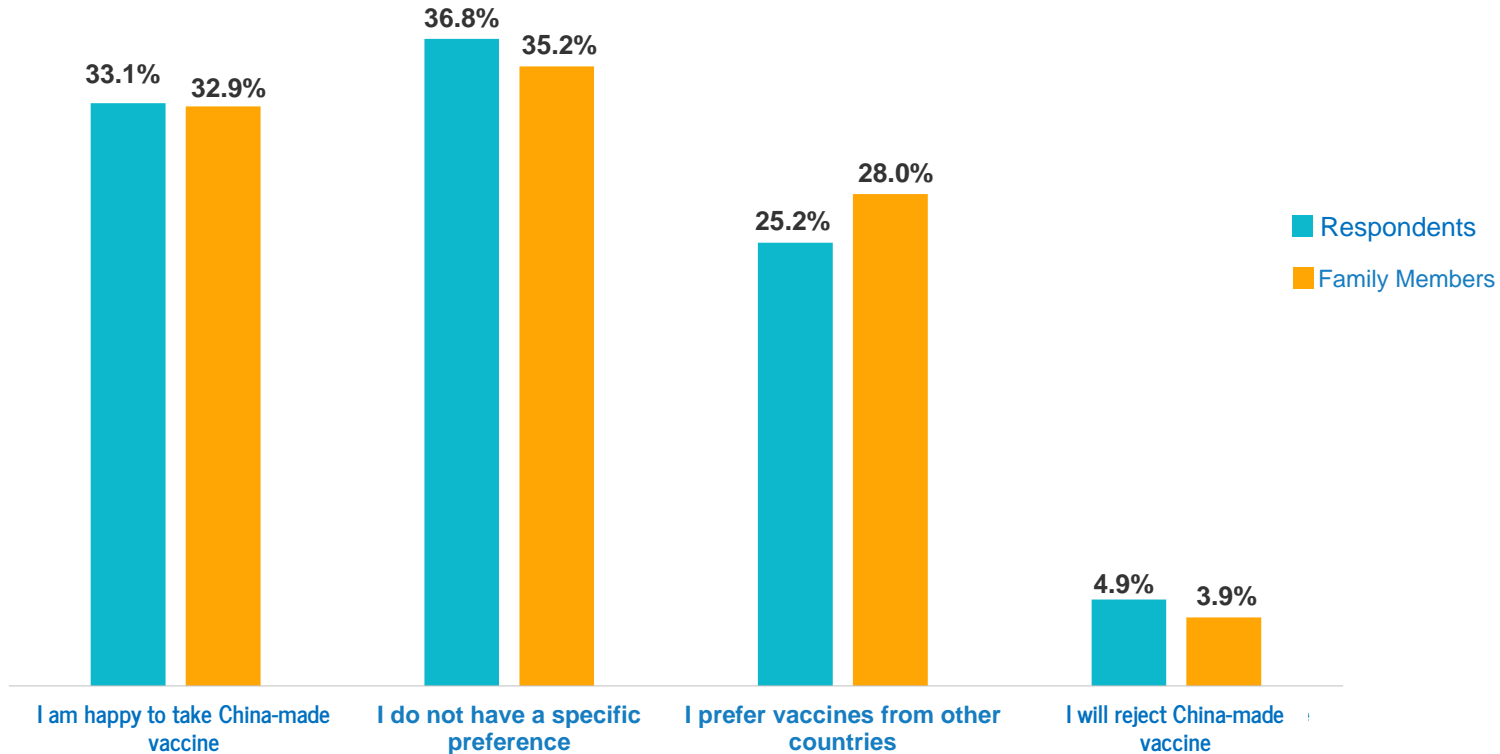
Acceptance level and perception of
China-made vaccines



CHINA-MADE VACCINES

This section shows the level of acceptance of China-made vaccines by the respondents and their family members, and the advantages of China-made vaccines compared with vaccines of other countries. Analysis of the acceptance level of China-made vaccines by the respondents according to age-group, ethnicity, region and area of residence is also presented.

Acceptance level of China-made vaccines by respondents and family members



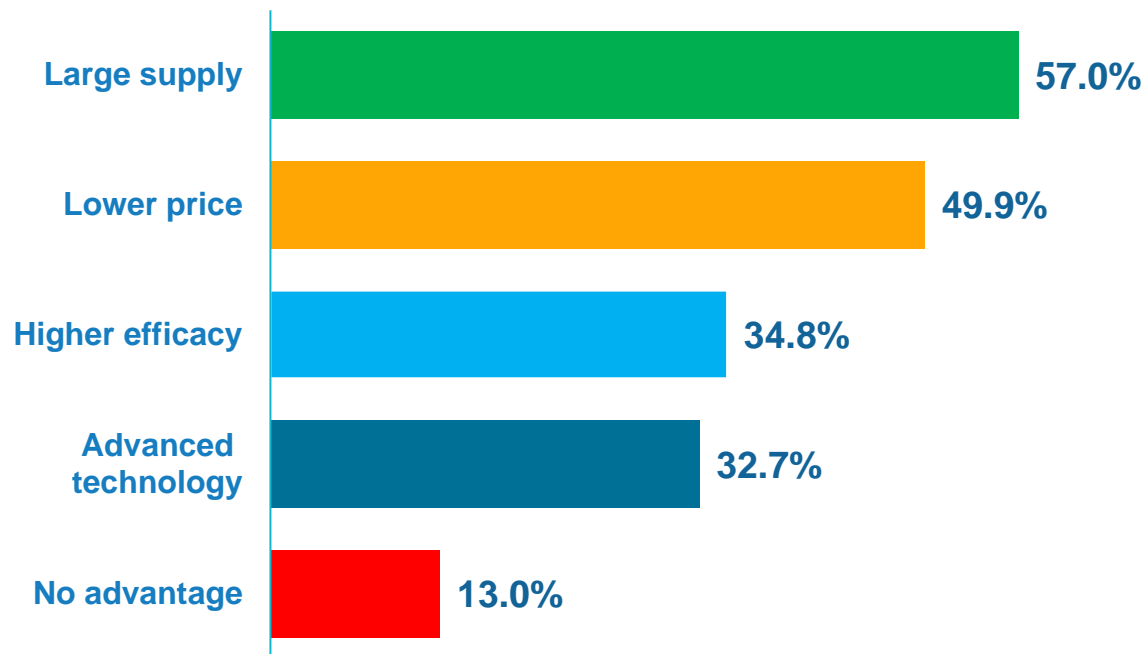
Acceptance level of China-made vaccines according to Age Group and Ethnicity

	AGE GROUP (YEARS)				ETHNICITY			
	21 - 30	31 - 40	41 - 50	51 and above	Malay	Chinese	Indian	Others
I am happy to take China-made vaccine	37.9%	34.9%	28.4%	31.4%	32.0%	42.5%	17.4%	21.1%
I do not have a specific preference	41.6%	31.0%	40.0%	34.2%	35.8%	32.3%	41.1%	62.1%
I prefer vaccines from other countries	18.8%	29.5%	25.3%	27.1%	27.2%	21.5%	32.6%	13.6%
I will reject China-made vaccine	1.7%	4.6%	6.3%	7.4%	5.0%	3.7%	8.9%	3.2%

Acceptance level of China-made vaccines according to Region and Area of Residence

	REGION					AREA OF RESIDENCE		
	Northern	Central	East Coast	Southern	East Malaysia	Rural	Semi-urban	Urban
I am happy to take China-made vaccine	28.0%	31.8%	33.8%	45.0%	27.7%	35.8%	30.9%	34.7%
I do not have a specific preference	32.7%	39.5%	40.7%	25.3%	45.9%	44.0%	38.5%	34.3%
I prefer vaccines from other countries	30.5%	22.8%	24.5%	25.3%	24.1%	18.4%	23.0%	28.0%
I will reject China-made vaccine	8.8%	5.9%	1.0%	4.4%	2.3%	1.8%	7.6%	3.0%

Advantages of China-made vaccines compared to vaccines of other countries



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS | China-made Vaccines

There is no clear preference for China-made vaccines. About one-third of the respondents (33.1%) and their family members (32.9%) indicated that they were happy to take China-made vaccines.

Further analysis shows that the acceptance level of China-made vaccines varies with ethnicity. The highest level of acceptance is among Chinese (42.5%), followed by Malay (32.0%), Others (21.1%), and Indian (17.4%).

In terms of region, the acceptance level of China-made vaccines is the highest in the Southern region (45.0%), followed by the East coast (33.8%), Central region (31.8%), Northern region (28.0%) and lastly East Malaysia (27.7%).

The respondents felt that the main advantages of China-made vaccines compared to vaccines of other countries are large supply and more affordable in terms of price.



3. PERCEPTIONS

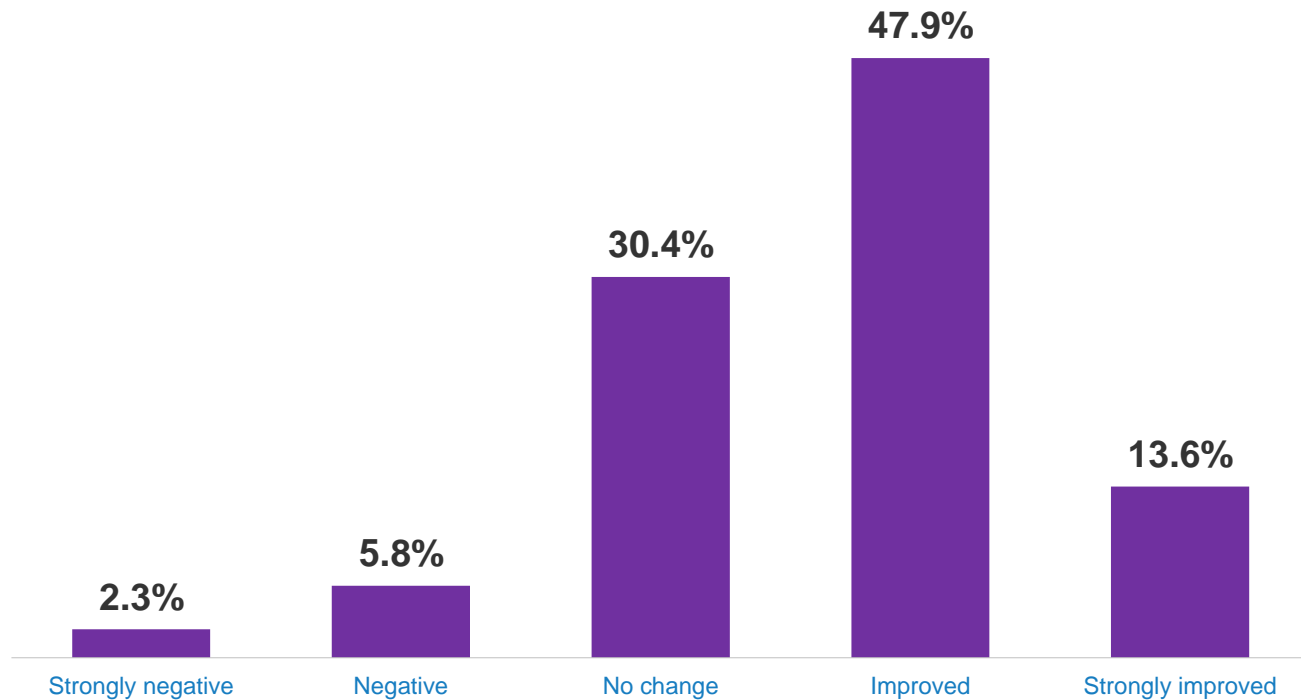
Respondents' perception of China
and Chinese companies in Malaysia

PERCEPTIONS

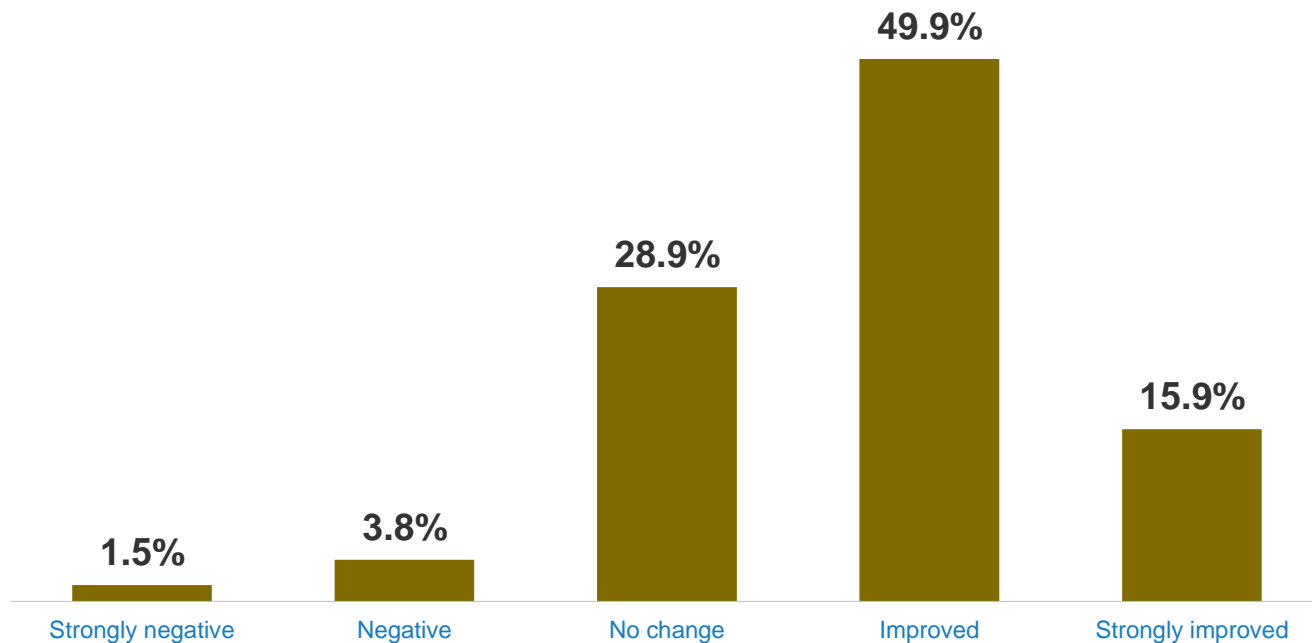
This section highlights how Malaysia-China vaccine cooperation may have changed the perception of China in general, and of the Chinese companies in Malaysia specifically. It also presents the respondents' views on the advantages of Malaysia compared to other South-east Asia countries in cooperating with China post pandemic.

The survey also gauged how the South China Sea dispute between Malaysia and China may affect the respondents' perception of China.

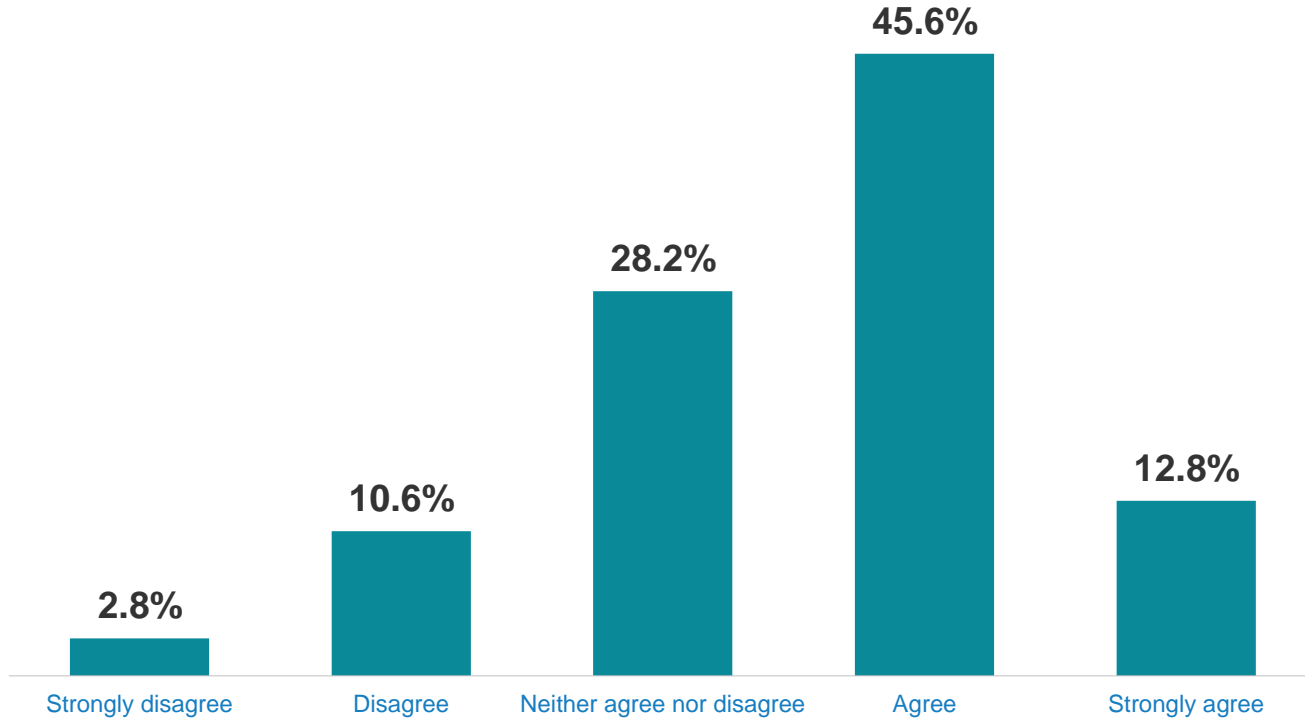
Change in perception of China in general after Malaysia-China vaccine cooperation



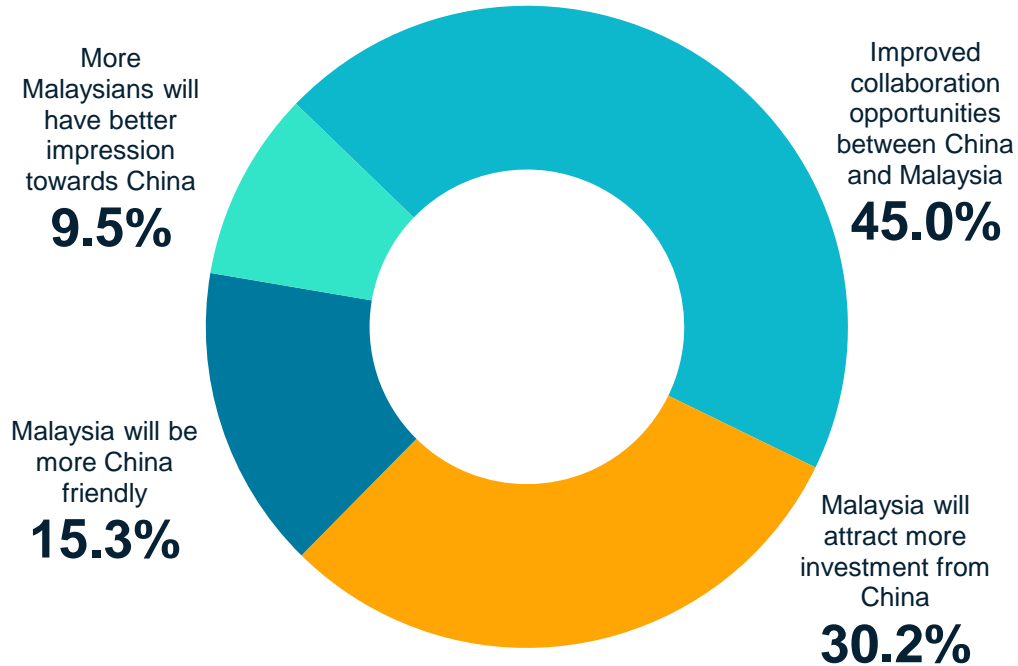
Change in perception of Chinese companies in Malaysia after Malaysia-China vaccine cooperation



Companies from China will pay more attention to environment, social and governance standards when investing in Malaysia post pandemic



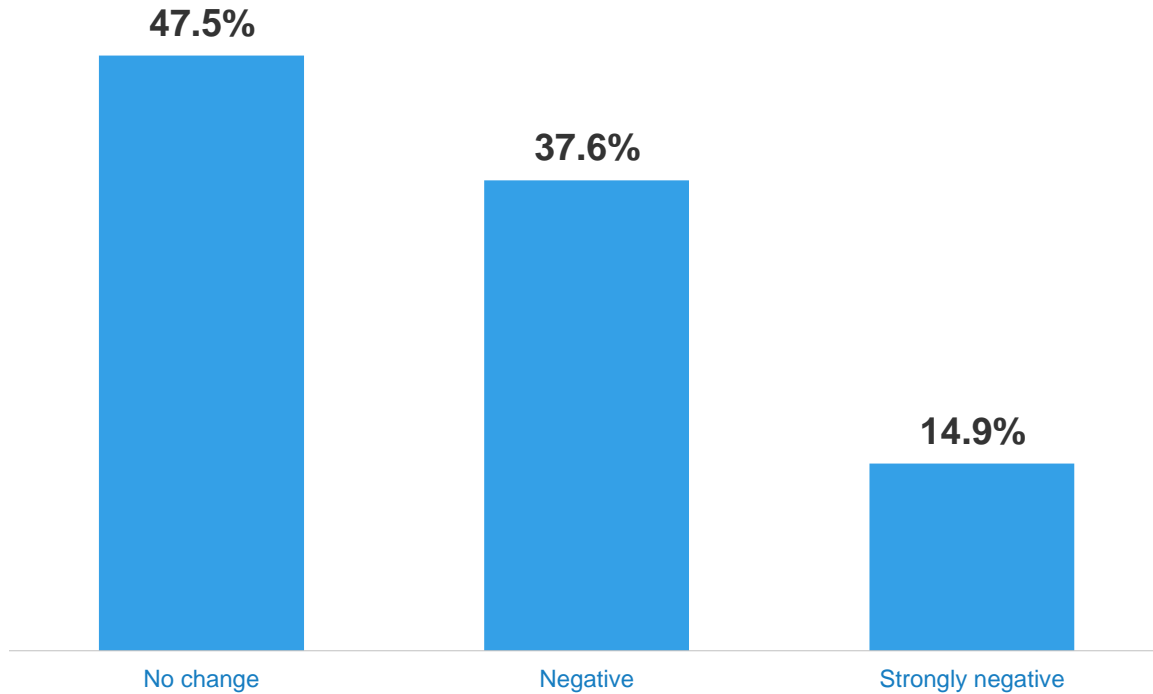
What is most likely to happen to Malaysia-China cooperation post pandemic



Advantages of Malaysia compared to other South-East Asian countries in cooperating with China post pandemic



Impact of the South China Sea dispute between Malaysia and China on the perception of China



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS | Perception of China and Chinese companies in Malaysia

More than 60% of the respondents indicated that their perception of China in general and of the Chinese companies in Malaysia has improved after the China-Malaysia vaccine cooperation.

A large majority of the respondents (75.2%) felt that post pandemic, there will be improved collaboration opportunities between Malaysia and China and Malaysia will attract more investment from China.

On the question of how the South China Sea dispute between Malaysia and China would affect the perception of China, more than half of the respondents (52.5%) indicated that it has a negative impact.



4. ASPIRATIONS

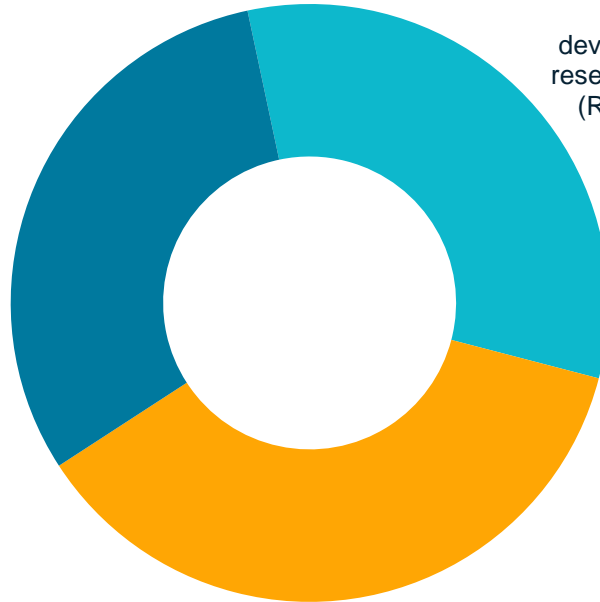
Respondents' aspirations on Malaysia-
China cooperation post pandemic

ASPIRATIONS

This section presents the respondents' views and anticipation regarding the areas of focus in Malaysia-China vaccine cooperation, and the key areas of economic cooperation between the two countries that will be enhanced post COVID-19 pandemic.

Areas of focus in Malaysia-China vaccine cooperation

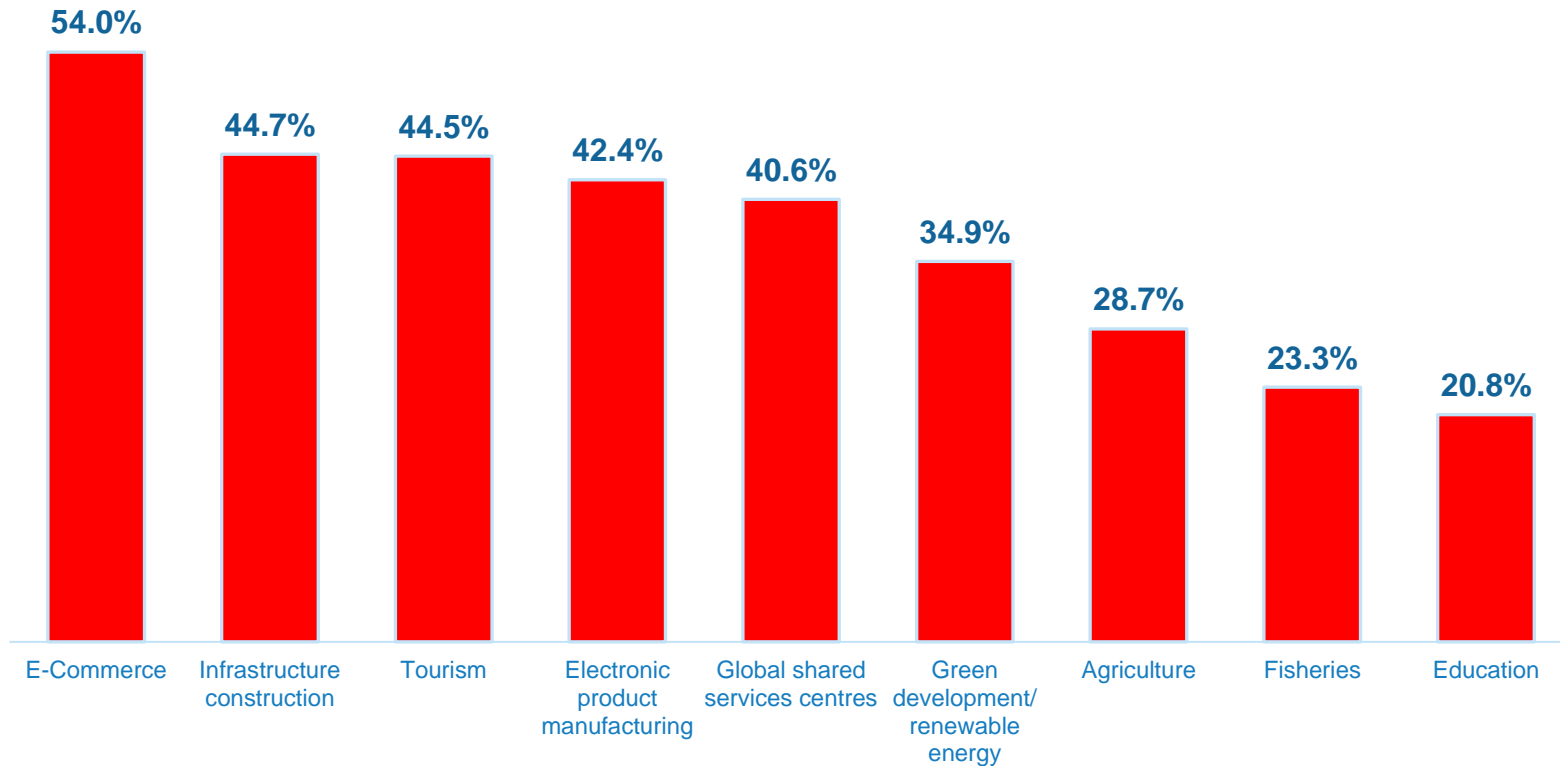
Increasing the import
volume of China-made
vaccines (Sinovac,
Sinopharm)
30.8%



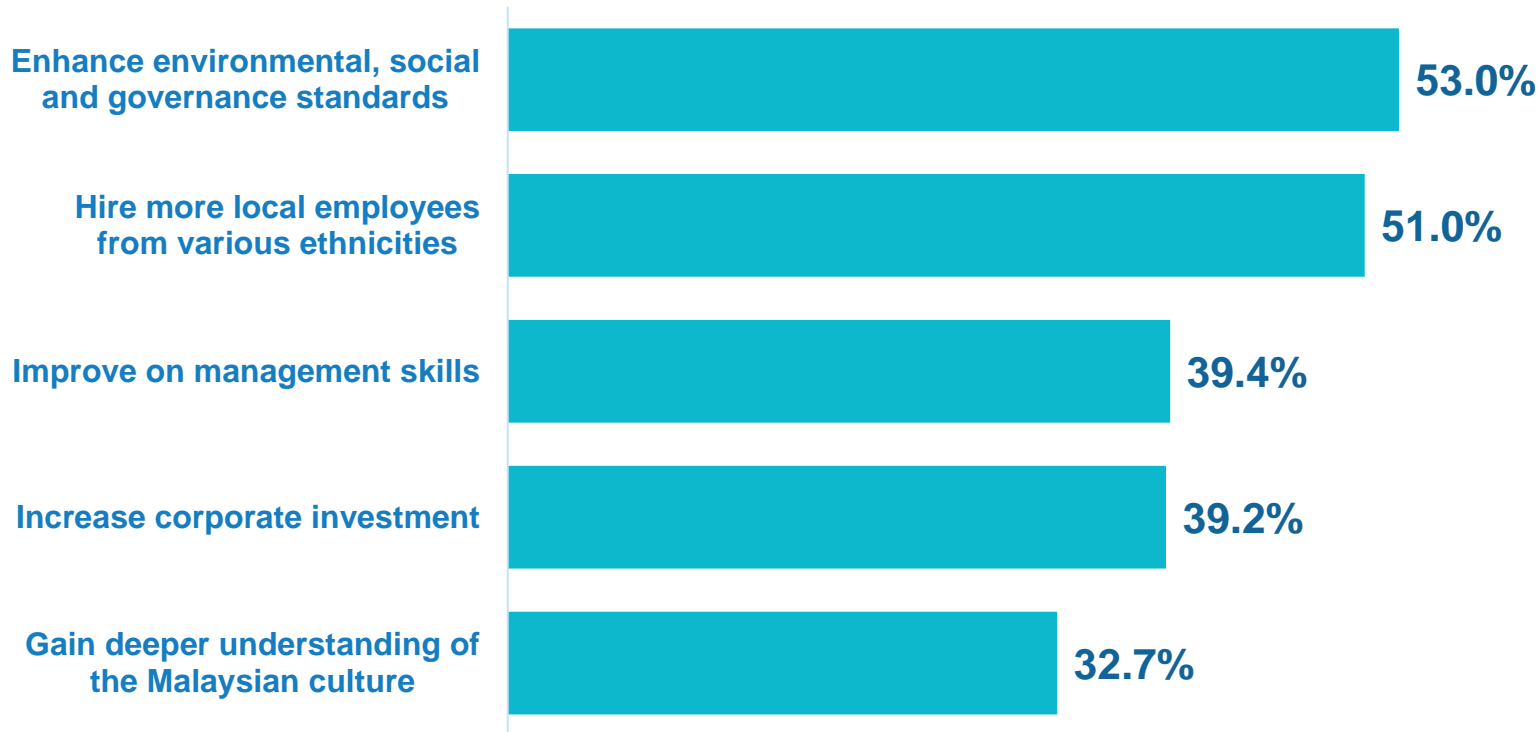
Cooperation and
developing Malaysia as a
research and development
(R&D) hub for vaccine
32.4%

Cooperation and
developing Malaysia as
a vaccine manufacturing
country
36.8%

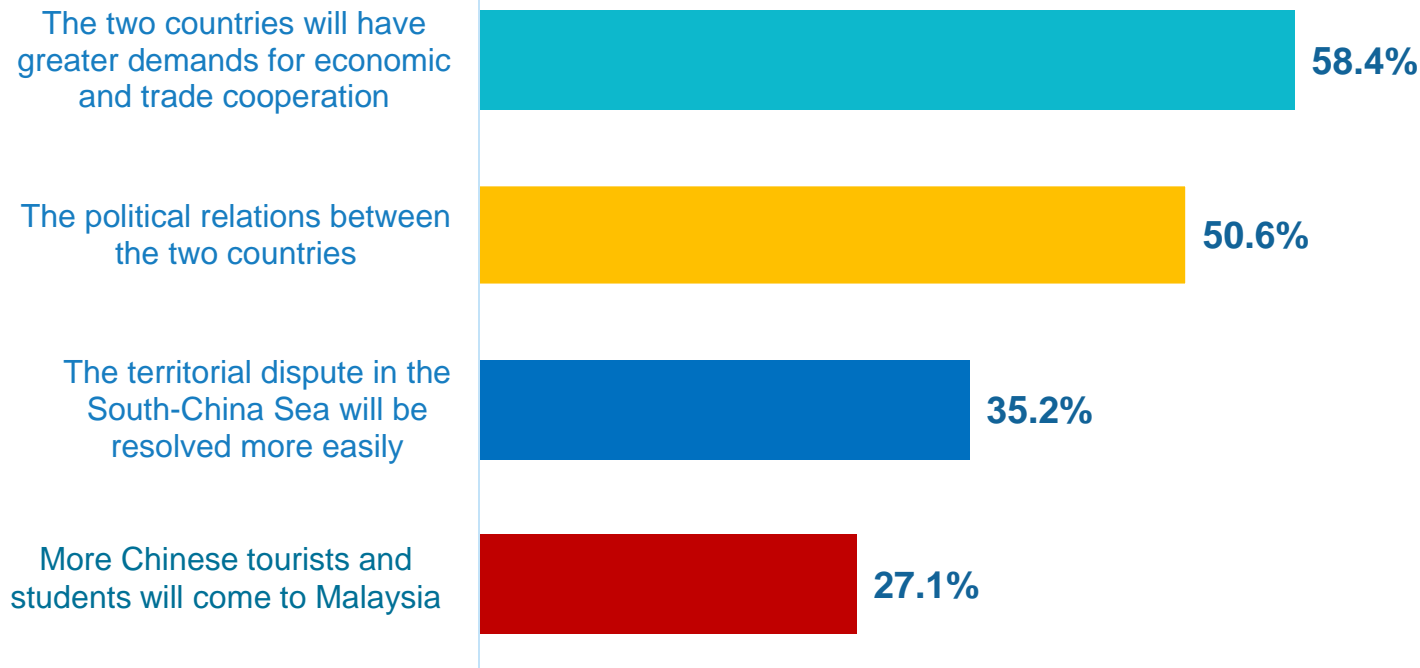
Areas of cooperation between Malaysia and China to be enhanced post pandemic



Areas that Chinese investors in Malaysia need to improve



Areas of collaboration between Malaysia and China that will be improved post pandemic



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS | Aspirations

The survey shows that generally, the respondents anticipated that post pandemic there will be greater trade and economic cooperation between Malaysia and China, and the political and trade relations between the two countries will improve.

On Malaysia-China vaccine cooperation, the respondents felt that it is equally important to focus on increasing the supply of vaccines from China, and the development of Malaysia as a vaccine manufacturing country and a R & D hub for vaccines. In regard to areas of economic cooperation, the respondents hoped that there will be greater cooperation in e-commerce (54.0%), infrastructure construction (44.7%), tourism (44.5%), electronic products manufacturing (42.4%), and global shared services centres (40.6%)

5. CONCLUSION

Conclusion of the report



CONCLUSION

The survey shows that there is no clear indication of preference for China-made vaccines over other vaccines. Large supply and more affordable price are deemed to be the main advantages of China-made vaccines compared to vaccines of other countries.

The acceptance level of China-made vaccines varies with ethnicity and region. The acceptance level is highest among Chinese (42.5%) and in the Southern region (45.0%)

The respondents anticipated that post pandemic, there will be greater trade and economic cooperation between Malaysia and China as well as improved political and trade relations between the two countries.

CONCLUSION (Cont.)

Malaysia-China vaccine cooperation has improved Malaysians' perception of China in general and of the Chinese companies in Malaysia specifically. However, the negative impact of the South China Sea dispute between Malaysia and China still remains.

Going forward, Malaysians welcome more investment from China in e-commerce, infrastructure, tourism, and electronic product manufacturing. In regard to Malaysia-China vaccine cooperation, Malaysians place equal importance on increasing the supply of vaccines from China, and the development of Malaysia as a vaccine manufacturing country and a R & D hub for vaccines.



THANK YOU

Report prepared by

