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# Malaysia-Chile FTA talks reach advanced stage

**THE** free trade agreement (FTA) talks between Malaysia and Chile are at an advanced stage, Malaysia External Trade Development Corp (Matrade) deputy chief executive officer (development), Mohamad Kamarudin Hassan (*picture*), said yesterday.

He said the FTA would serve to make Chile a launch pad for Malaysian companies to enter Latin American market.

"From the series of talks conducted over the last two years, the one with Chile is at the advanced stage. We hope it will be concluded soon.

"Hopefully, by this year the country's exports will have greater access to the Latin American market," he told reporters after opening a seminar on "Optimising Opportunities Under Malaysia's Free Trade Agreements" in



Pic by Shahrin Yusoff

Kuching.

Mohamad Kamarudin said in an effort to expand market access to Malaysian companies, the government would

continue its efforts to engage in FTA talks with other trading partners.

"New FTA initiatives are also developing. The Ministry of International Trade and Industry has been monitoring the performance under the various FTAs. "While the numbers are encouraging, there is still a lot more potential that needs to be exploited by our exporters," he said.

He said the FTAs would also ensure Malaysia remain an attractive investment destination and production hub.

"This is so for foreign companies desiring to take advantage of the low-cost environment created by the FTA and those who want to use Malaysia as a base to expand trade with Malaysia's FTA partners," he said. — *Bernama*