

## **Malaysia Can Become Global Tire Center: Official**

Malaysian officials feel the country is ripe to be a major global player in the tire industry. International Trade and Industry Ministry secretary general Dr. Rebecca Fatima Sta Maria said there is ample room for Malaysian tire export growth, according to the Malaysian Star newspaper. She recently said Malaysia's export of tires and tire-related products increased 3.3% in 2012 over the year prior. Total world tire exports in 2012 reached \$148.6 billion, she noted. "There is room for Malaysian exports to grow as our major destinations include China (30.1%), the U.S. (19.8%), Germany (4.4%), Japan (3.8%), Thailand (3%), Brazil (2.7%), the U.K. (2.6%) and Australia (2.5%)," she told the newspaper at the recent grand opening of Toyo Tire & Rubber Co.'s new plant in her country. "Now that we have an indication of the size of the market, let us focus on technological advances and demand for greener products to grow exports." [tirereview.com](http://tirereview.com)