

Welcoming Dinner Speech by

**Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Sri Haji Fadillah bin Haji Yusof
Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia and Minister of Energy
Transition and Water Transformation**

In conjunction with the

43rd ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Energy

Powering ASEAN: Bridging Boundaries, Building Prosperity

Monday, 16 June 2025, 7.00 PM – 9.30 PM

Riverside Majestic Hotel, Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim

(Salutations)

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh, Salam Malaysia
Madani, Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur.

Good evening and a very warm welcome to all of you.

OPENING

1. First and foremost, I would like to warmly welcome Yang Amat Berhormat Premier of Sarawak Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr.) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg for graciously taking the time to join us at the dinner for the 43rd ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Energy this evening.

2. It is a profound privilege and great honour for me to welcome you to this special evening. I extend my deepest gratitude for your presence at this welcoming dinner, organised in conjunction with the 43rd ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting on Energy (SOME).
3. On behalf of the Government and people of Malaysia, and indeed, on behalf of the Ministry of Energy Transition and Water Transformation, a very warm *Selamat Datang* to all of you, especially to our international guests, to our beautiful Kuching, Sarawak.
4. Please allow me to also extend a special word of appreciation to our generous Petroleum Sarawak Berhad and Sarawak Energy Berhad whose invaluable support has made this wonderful dinner possible. It is particularly fitting that we host this important meeting here in Sarawak. Sarawak harnesses abundant indigenous natural resources to generate predominantly renewable hydropower exemplify how clean energy can power economic growth and uplift communities.

A CELEBRATION OF SHARED VISION

5. We are gathered here not only to advance our collective energy goals, but also to enjoy the opportunity to connect, reflect, and appreciate the spirit of partnership that defines ASEAN. The 43rd SOME marks another crucial step in our collective journey towards enhancing energy cooperation, addressing evolving challenges and seizing new opportunities on the global energy landscape.

6. Energy is key to realising the ASEAN Economic Community goal of a well-connected ASEAN to drive an integrated, competitive and resilient region. To our fellow ASEAN Member States, your presence here powerfully reaffirms the strength of our unity and our shared vision for an interconnected, resilient and sustainable ASEAN Community. This is consistent with "Kuala Lumpur Declaration on ASEAN 2045: Our Shared Future." that outlines ASEAN's vision for the next two decades, focusing on building a resilient, innovative, and people-centered community.

ADVANCING THE ASEAN POWER GRID

7. At the very heart of this ambitious vision lies the ASEAN Power Grid (APG). The APG is undeniably the cornerstone for cultivating a more resilient and sustainable energy future across ASEAN. We are highly anticipating the pivotal signing of the enhanced APG MOU and the formal endorsement of the Terms of Reference of Subsea Power Cable Development Framework. This critical advancement, scheduled for the upcoming ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting in Kuala Lumpur in October 2025, will undoubtedly propel our regional energy integration forward.
8. Economic growth continues to surge. Urban populations are expanding. The demand for affordable, secure, and sustainable energy is rising faster than ever before. And with the accelerating impacts of climate change, we are reminded daily that the choices we make now will determine the resilience and prosperity of generations to come.

9. This is where the ASEAN Power Grid plays a transformative role. The ASEAN Power Grid is not just an infrastructure project, it is a vision. A vision of a region where electricity flows seamlessly across borders, where energy security is shared, and where the prosperity of one nation uplifts all. By interconnecting our national grids, we are creating the backbone of a truly integrated ASEAN energy market.
10. The full realization of the ASEAN Power Grid will require stronger political will, deeper technical cooperation, and smarter investment strategies. We need harmonized regulations, open and transparent markets, and digital innovation to make real-time regional power trading a reality. We need to embrace not just the hardware cables, substations, and control systems, but also the software: governance frameworks, data sharing, and mutual trust. In essence, the ASEAN Power Grid is about turning our diversity into strength. It is about leveraging our shared geography and complementary resources to build a future that is greener, more inclusive, and more secure.
11. I am confident that the APG Enhanced Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), couple with the forthcoming ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation 2026 - 2030 document, will profoundly deepen our region's power connectivity. This profound development will drive and act as a powerful catalyst for economic growth across all ASEAN Member States.

CRUCIAL PARTNERSHIPS AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

12. Over the next two days, we will delve into discussions with our esteemed Dialogue Partners and International Organisation, convened in conjunction with the 43rd SOME. We eagerly anticipate a highly productive exchange of ideas and a successful outcome from these sessions.
13. To our valued Dialogue Partners and representative from International Organisations, your participation is indispensable. The expertise, technological advancement, and investment support from Dialogue Partners and International Organisations are vital as we navigate the complexities of decarbonisation, explore innovative energy technologies and build a more robust energy infrastructure. It is through these multi-faceted collaborations that we can collectively accelerate our progress towards a cleaner, greener and more secure energy future.
14. Malaysia is steadfast in its commitment to the energy transition. We are actively working towards increasing our renewable energy capacity, improving energy efficiency, and exploring cutting-edge solutions for a low-carbon economy. We believe that by working hand-in-hand, sharing knowledge, and leveraging each other's strengths, we can unlock the immense potential within our energy sectors and drive meaningful change.

CLOSING REMARKS

15. Tonight, as we enjoy this welcoming dinner, I invite you to also take in the unique atmosphere of Sarawak, a land known not only for its natural beauty and abundant resources, but also for its rich cultural

tapestry and diverse heritage. From the warmth of its people to the vibrancy of its indigenous traditions, Sarawak truly embodies the spirit of harmony in diversity values that resonate deeply with ASEAN's own identity.

16. Before concluding my speech, I would once again like to express my highest appreciation and sincere thanks to Yang Amat Berhormat Premier of Sarawak Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr.) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg for graciously joining us this evening.
17. Once again, thank you all for being here, and please enjoy the rest of the evening in the beautiful and welcoming surroundings of Sarawak.

Terima kasih. Thank you.