

OPENING ADDRESS

**YAB DATUK AMAR HAJI FADILLAH BIN HAJI YUSOF
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF ENERGY
TRANSITION AND WATER TRANSFORMATION**

**TROPICAL CROPS CARBON
CREDIT FORUM (TCCCF)**

24 NOVEMBER 2025 (MONDAY)

Banquet Hall, Royal Lake Club Kuala Lumpur

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim.

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.

Salam Sejahtera, Salam Malaysia MADANI.

(SALUTATIONS)

**ACADEMICIAN EMERITUS PROF. TAN SRI DATUK DR.
AUGUSTINE S.H. ONG,
President of the Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences
Association (ATAS),**

**Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. Alhamdulillah, today we gather on this beautiful morning, and before I begin, allow me to share a timeless reminder from Mahatma Gandhi, a reminder that speaks deeply to the spirit of service and excellence:

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others,”

—Mahatma Gandhi

This is not merely a statement — it is a philosophy of purpose.

2. It teaches us that true fulfilment is found when our work benefits others, when our actions uplift lives, and when our duties are carried out with sincerity and ihsan.
3. And today, at this **Tropical Crops Carbon Credit Forum**, we are not merely discussing carbon, or markets.
4. We are perfecting an amanah — the sacred responsibility of caring for our land, nurturing our farmers, and safeguarding the future of our environment.
5. Every policy we craft, every innovation we pursue, and every hectare of land we restore becomes a form of service.

Service to the Earth.

Service to communities.

Service to generations yet unborn.

As Sayyidina Umar al-Khattab RA once reminded us — a reflection that transcends time and faith:

“We are a people whom Allah has honoured. If we seek honour elsewhere, we will be humbled.”

Our honour today lies in how we protect what has been entrusted to us.

6. It lies in the dignity we give to our rural communities, the strength we provide to our smallholders, and the care with which we guard our natural heritage.

And in the realm of nation-building, the Father of Malaysia’s unity, Tun Hussein Onn, once said:

“A nation is great not by its wealth alone, but by the character of its people.”

7. This forum is a reflection of that character — perseverance, responsibility, and the courage to innovate for a greener and more resilient future.
8. As I welcome all of you to this gathering today, let us be reminded that **the pursuit of sustainability is not just an economic agenda — it is a moral one.**

9. It is about honouring the land that nourishes us, empowering the people who sustain us, and ensuring that our future carries more hope than our past.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Malaysia's story began with the soil.

10. From rice fields that fed our ancestors, to forests that shaped our heritage, to rubber and oil palm that fuelled national prosperity — agriculture is not a sector; **it is our identity.**
11. Millions of farmers, smallholders, and rural families built Malaysia's early economy with their hands, their sweat, and their faith.
12. Their story continues today — **but now they stand on the frontline of a climate crisis shaping a new chapter for our nation.**
13. Increasing droughts, shifting rainfall, soil degradation, and volatile markets are not abstract issues. They are threats to our food supply, our economy, and our rural communities.

Yet — as in all great stories — within every challenge lies a new beginning.

For just as Sheikh Abdul Qadir al-Jilani reminded:

“Within every hardship, Allah hides a gift. Seek the wisdom behind the difficulty.”

And the gift before us today is clear:

our tropical crops themselves hold the key to Malaysia’s climate future.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

14. Our palm oil, rubber, rice, bamboo, and forest landscapes are not merely economic commodities.
15. They are **living carbon sinks**, capable of capturing emissions, restoring soils, and rejuvenating ecosystems.
16. If managed sustainably, they can transform Malaysia into a global leader in the tropical carbon economy — a leader not just in production, but in **climate resilience, green innovation, and ethical stewardship.**

17. Around the world, climate accountability is reshaping economies. **Carbon is becoming currency. Sustainability is becoming competitiveness.**
18. And today, Malaysia stands ready to do the impossible — **to turn nature into a national asset, to turn tropical crops into climate champions, and to turn carbon management into shared prosperity.**

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

19. To lead this transition, Malaysia is strengthening its governance, policies, and institutional frameworks.
20. Through the **Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability (NRES)**, the Government is formulating the **National Carbon Market Policy (DPKK)** — a transformative framework to operationalise our commitments under the **Paris Agreement** and **push us towards net-zero emissions by 2050.**
21. **DPKK will:**
- **strengthen the Bursa Carbon Exchange (BCX);**

- integrate carbon markets with NETR, NIMP2030, and CCUS Act 2025;
- and lay the foundation for future domestic compliance mechanisms, including carbon tax or emissions trading.

22. In parallel, the forthcoming **National Climate Change Bill (RUUPIN)** will safeguard the integrity of Malaysia's carbon credits — ensuring that every tonne of carbon traded reflects real, measurable impact.

This is governance with purpose. This is leadership with clarity.

This is Malaysia stepping into the global arena with confidence.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

23. Today's forum is not merely a conference — **it is the beginning of a national movement.**

24. It brings together experts who can turn science into action, innovators who can turn data into solutions, and

policymakers who can turn ideas into national transformation.

25. The theme “**Sequestering Carbon, Securing Livelihoods**” reminds us that sustainability must be inclusive — it must uplift farmers, empower communities, and ensure that nature-based solutions also become prosperity-based solutions.

Because true progress is not when one sector grows — but when everyone rises together.

Imam Shafiee once said:

“Whoever wants the world, let him seek knowledge. Whoever wants the Hereafter, let him seek knowledge. Whoever wants both, let him seek knowledge.”

26. And this forum embodies that wisdom — **combining scientific knowledge, economic insight, and environmental stewardship into a shared journey for Malaysia.**

27. For Malaysia to succeed in the tropical carbon economy, collaboration is essential.

28. Government agencies, universities, financial institutions, global partners, and industries must move as one ecosystem — **grounded in trust, strengthened by data, and guided by science.**

29. Malaysia must craft solutions tailored to our biodiversity, our soil, our landscapes, and our social fabric, from precision carbon measurement to regenerative agriculture to innovative green financing models.

30. And we must build capacity — developing a new generation of carbon specialists, agronomists, technologists, and sustainability leaders.

This is how we shape not just a policy, but a future.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

31. Let us build a Malaysia where tropical crops are not seen as commodities alone — but as **living assets** that anchor climate resilience, generate new wealth, and uplift future generations.

A Malaysia where farmers thrive.

Where industries innovate.

Where ecosystems heal.

Where sustainability becomes a source of pride, unity, and national strength.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before I end my speech, allow me to share the hadith and a timeless reminder by our Beloved Prophet SAW:

“The world is green and beautiful, and Allah has appointed you as stewards over it.”

(Hadith Riwayat Muslim)

**We are custodians of this Earth —
and what we build today becomes the inheritance of tomorrow.**

32. May this forum plant seeds not only in our fields but in our hearts — **seeds of responsibility, innovation, and hope.**

With that, I thank you.

**Wabillahi taufiq walhidayah, wassalamualaikum
warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.**