

OPENING KEYNOTE ADDRESS

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

**GLOBAL AI, DIGITAL & GREEN ECONOMY
SUMMIT 2025**

***“Accelerating Sustainability Through Artificial
Intelligence,”***

**15 DECEMBER 2025
The Majestic Hotel, Kuala Lumpur**

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim.

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh,

Salam Sejahtera, Salam Malaysia MADANI,

And a very good evening.

(SALUTATION)

Yang Berbahagia Tan Sri Majid Khan

Chairman, KSI Strategic Institute for Asia Pacific

Yang Berbahagia Tan Sri Michael Yeoh

President, KSI Strategic Institute for Asia Pacific &

World Digital Chamber (WDC) and

Chairman, ICC Malaysia & ASEAN Economic Club

Mr. N R Narayana Murthy

Founder, Infosys Ltd India

Co-Chair, World Digital Chamber

Excellencies,

Distinguished Guests,

Members of the Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before I begin, allow me to share this beautiful hadith,
The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ reminded us:

“Each of you is a shepherd, and each of you is responsible for his flock.”

(Sahih al-Bukhari & Sahih Muslim)

This Hadith speaks directly to leadership in our time. It reminds us that authority is not privilege, progress is not entitlement, and innovation is not neutral.

Every decision we make — in policy, investment, and technology — carries responsibility. Responsibility not only to markets and shareholders, but to people, communities, and generations yet to come.

1. Today, as we speak of artificial intelligence, digitalisation, and the green economy, we are ultimately speaking about **amanah** — the trust placed upon us to lead wisely in a rapidly changing world.
2. Alhamdulillah, it is an honour to deliver this keynote address at the **Global AI, Digital & Green Economy Summit 2025**. I thank the organisers for convening this important gathering under the theme **“Accelerating Sustainability**

Through Artificial Intelligence,” and for bringing together government, business, academia, and communities at one table.

3. This convergence matters, because the challenges before us cannot be solved in silos, nor can leadership be exercised in isolation.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. We are living through a decisive decade. The global energy transition, the rise of artificial intelligence, and the urgency of climate action are no longer parallel conversations — they are converging realities.
5. The question before us is not whether change will happen, but whether we will **shape it deliberately**, or allow it to unfold without direction.
6. Allow me to be direct. If we are serious about building a low-carbon economy that is competitive, inclusive, and resilient, then we must do three things at the same time: **we must modernise our power systems, digitalise our economies with trustworthy artificial intelligence, and**

translate climate ambition into bankable, investable projects.

7. Anything less would only delay the transition our future cannot afford.

As Nelson Mandela once said, “It always seems impossible until it is done.”

Sustainability must therefore move beyond aspiration. It must be executed, measured, and delivered.

8. Malaysia has set a clear direction through the **National Energy Transition Roadmap**, which aims for around seventy percent renewable energy capacity by 2050.

9. Achieving this is not simply a matter of installing more solar panels or building more dams. It requires a fundamental transformation of our power system — **from generation to transmission, distribution, and system operations.**

10. Grid modernisation is therefore non-negotiable. Multi-year investments by **Tenaga Nasional Berhad**, incorporating artificial intelligence-enabled planning,

automation, and battery energy storage, are critical steps forward.

11. But ambition must be matched by outcomes. We expect faster connections, fewer bottlenecks, reduced curtailment, and stronger resilience during extreme weather events.
12. The grid must become not only larger, but smarter and more adaptive.

Mahatma Gandhi once reminded us that “The future depends on what we do in the present.”

Grid upgrades are not preparation for tomorrow — they are the work of today.

13. Beyond our borders, regional integration multiplies our options. The **Laos–Thailand–Malaysia–Singapore Power Integration Project** has proven that cross-border trade in clean electricity can work at scale.
14. Our task now is to expand and replicate such arrangements across **ASEAN Power Grid** corridors,

turning the region's diversity of resources into collective energy security.

15. Stronger interconnections reduce system costs, smooth variability, and enhance resilience for all participating countries.

16. Within Malaysia, Sarawak demonstrates what leadership looks like in practice.

17. By leveraging its abundant hydropower resources, advancing hydrogen technologies, and attracting serious interest from partners such as **Japan and South Korea**, Sarawak is not merely producing clean energy — **it is de-risking new value chains for the entire nation.**

18. We will continue to support such pioneers, because early leadership creates shared advantage.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

19. The fastest clean megawatt is the one we do not have to build.

20. Artificial intelligence allows us to unlock this potential by optimising demand, predicting peaks, and orchestrating storage and flexibility in real time.
21. Through these capabilities, buildings, factories, electric vehicles, and prosumers can function collectively as virtual power plants, contributing to grid stability rather than strain.
22. However, this transformation depends on trust. **AI-driven systems only work if data flows securely and systems are cyber-resilient.**
23. As we scale pilots that demonstrate measurable savings and system benefits, we are committed to mainstreaming solutions that are secure by design, transparent in operation, and resilient in the face of evolving threats.

Our task is to ensure that digitalisation delivers both vision and action.

24. At the same time, we must be honest about AI's own footprint. **Data centres are critical digital infrastructure, but they are energy-intensive.**

25. Malaysia has issued guidelines to drive the development of efficient and sustainable facilities, and we are tightening expectations on power usage effectiveness, renewable energy sourcing, and waste-heat recovery.
26. Growth in digital infrastructure is welcome, but it must be green growth by design, not by afterthought.
27. Turning ambition into reality requires capital — and **capital flows only when risk is priced correctly and integrity is high.**
28. Malaysia's voluntary carbon market, through Bursa Carbon Malaysia, has moved from concept to tangible transactions, including domestic nature-based credit auctions and the publication of updated market guidance.
29. We will continue strengthening this market so that high-quality carbon credits and renewable energy certificates crowd in private finance for real, verifiable decarbonisation.

30. Regionally, **ASEAN's commitment to raise the renewable share of installed power capacity to forty-five percent and to deepen energy-efficiency gains by 2030 reflects serious intent.**

31. Alignment on standards, taxonomies, and interconnection rules will reduce friction for investors and enable us to move faster together.

Tun Abdul Razak once said, "The task of nation-building is not a short journey, but a continuous responsibility."

Today, that responsibility includes building markets and institutions that serve growth with integrity.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

32. We must also be candid about the challenges ahead. The grid remains the primary bottleneck, and without faster expansion and digitalisation of transmission and distribution, renewable growth will stall.

33. At the same time, compute demand from AI training and inference is surging, reshaping load patterns and stressing local infrastructure.

34. Only projects that meet stringent efficiency and clean-energy thresholds, and that co-invest in grid reinforcements where necessary, will be supported.
35. Above all, integrity must remain the foundation of our efforts. Carbon credits, renewable energy certificates, and so-called **“AI for good”** initiatives must withstand independent scrutiny and full transparency.
36. Within government, we are aligning policy, regulation, and procurement to ensure that artificial intelligence becomes an enabler of grid resilience.
37. That digital infrastructure grows sustainably, that decarbonisation projects reach financial close faster, and that regional connectivity becomes the norm rather than the exception.

These are not abstract goals, but implementation priorities.

38. We therefore call on utilities to bring forward projects that measurably reduce curtailment, accelerate connections, and harden systems against extreme weather.

39. We urge manufacturers and building owners to deploy AI-enabled efficiency, demand response, and storage solutions, and to share lessons learned so aggregated demand can become a reliable system resource.

40. We expect data-centre and AI-compute investors to design for efficiency and clean energy from day one, working closely with utilities to manage grid impacts responsibly.

41. We invite financiers to price integrity, resilience, and speed to impact properly, and we encourage our ASEAN partners to expand interconnectors and harmonise rules so clean power can flow where it is needed most.

Tun Hussein Onn once said, “True leadership is not about popularity, but about responsibility.”

That responsibility now rests with all of us.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

42. Malaysia’s direction is firm. We are building a modern grid, a digital economy powered by trustworthy artificial

intelligence, and climate finance systems that deliver real-world decarbonisation.

43. The prize before us is not only lower emissions, but stronger energy security, new industries, better jobs, and cleaner air for our people.

***Mahatma Gandhi once reminded us,
“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”***

If we allow this principle to guide our work, then artificial intelligence will serve humanity, sustainability will uplift communities, and growth will be measured not only by profit, but by progress shared.

Let us therefore act with purpose, lead with integrity, and deliver outcomes that future generations will thank us for.

Thank you. Terima kasih.