

PROGRAMME

OVERVIEW

TIME	AGENDA	SESSION
8:30 am	Registration	
9:00 am	Opening Session	
9:30 am	Plenary Session	Malaysia's Signposts and Hotspots: The Next Decade's Trends and Growth Areas
10:45 am	Coffee Break	
11:00 am	Keynote Speech	Global Conflicts and Their Impact on Malaysia
11:45 am	Concurrent Session A	Robots and Metaverses: Harnessing Technology for Business Growth
	Concurrent Session B	Between Brain Drain and Labour Shortage: Malaysia's Battle for Talent & Manpower
	Concurrent Session C	The Future of Renewable Energy in Malaysia
1:00 pm	Lunch	
2:30 pm	Concurrent Session D	In Transit: Strengthening Malaysia's Resilience and Competitiveness as a Global Logistics Hub
	Concurrent Session E	Inflation & The Malaysian Consumer
	Concurrent Session F	The State of Malaysian Government Finances & The Impact of Policy Imperatives
3:45 pm	Coffee Break	
4:00 pm	Closing Session with YABhg Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad , former Prime Minister of Malaysia and Honorary President, Perdana Leadership Foundation	What Does the Future Hold for Malaysia?
5:00 pm	High-Tea & End of Programme	

**programme is subject to change at Organiser's discretion*

9.00 AM - OPENING SESSION

Welcome Address by Tan Sri Azman Hashim

Chairman, Board of Trustees, Perdana Leadership Foundation

9.30 AM - PLENARY SESSION

“Malaysia’s Signposts and Hotspots: The Next Decade’s Trends and Growth Areas”

With talk of a looming global recession in 2023, what is the outlook for the Malaysian economy.

To date, the Malaysian economy has shown encouraging signs of recovery, with increased domestic demand, higher output, improved exports, and a stronger FDI inflow. However, global factors such as a prolonged Russia-Ukraine war, rising food and energy prices, a depressed Chinese economy, and monetary tightening in the US could hamper our growth prospects. Against this uncertain scenario, which sectors are most likely to thrive and how should business leaders steer their companies?

In this plenary session, speakers will discuss present and future business and economic turning points for Malaysia and elaborate on the risk factors and opportunities.

MODERATOR: **Dr Yeah Kim Leng**

Senior Fellow and Director of the Economic Studies Programme, Sunway University

- **Dr Nungsari Radhi**
Executive Chairman, Malaysian Aviation Commission (MAVCOM)
- **Puan Rafiza Ghazali**
Director, Digital Banking, KAF Investment Bank Bhd
- **Encik Eqhwan Mokhzanee Muhammad**
CEO, AmBank Islamic

- **Tan Sri Che Khalib Mohamad Noh**
Group Managing Director, MMC Corporation Berhad

11.00 AM - KEYNOTE SPEECH

“Global Conflicts and Their Impact on Malaysia”

More than the Butterfly Effect.

Since the age of empires, people and goods have moved beyond national boundaries via trade and travel routes, and money and capital have followed. Today, the links between nations have multiplied in quantity and complexity, and businesses look far beyond their shores for growth and opportunities.

A war in one part of the world has a greater impact on the rest of the planet than ever before. The Russia-Ukraine war is an example. As Russia presses on with its invasion of Ukraine, the world has seen energy prices and food costs escalate along with the loss of lives.

What are the likely consequences for the Malaysian economy as a result of this prolonged conflict, and what are the other conflict zones ahead that the business community should pay heed to?”

This keynote session delves into current and potential global conflicts and examines their impact on Malaysia.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

- **Dato’ Dr Shazelina Zainul Abidin**
Director General, Institut Diplomasi Dan Hubungan Luar Negeri (IDFR)

MODERATOR:

- **Dato’ Vaseehar Hassan**
Associates, Kets de Vries Institute

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11.45 AM - CONCURRENT SESSIONS

SESSION A

"Robots and Metaverses: Harnessing Technology for Business Growth"

The pandemic has underscored one theme consistently for business: the necessity of technology.

Whether it is to digitalise, automate, or migrate (online), businesses have been firmly reminded that incorporating tech is no longer an option but a must. However, for many businesses, especially MSMEs, costs are high and the learning curve is steep, whereas for other companies, there are tasks where manpower is still required. In the age of metaverses and robotics, how best can businesses leverage technology to innovate processes, improve productivity, and create higher-value goods and services?

The panellists of this session will discuss the positive impact of technology on business growth, and the present and emerging tech out there that can take businesses to the next level of success.

MODERATOR: YBhg Datuk Dr Hamzah Kassim
Founder & CEO, The iA Group

- **En Amir Zakwan Anuar**
Chief Strategy Officer, Aerodyne Group
- **Ms Aireen Omar**
President (Ventures), Capital A, AirAsia Digital
- **Ts. Mahadhir Aziz**
CEO, Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC)

SESSION B

"Between Brain Drain and Labour Shortage: Malaysia's Battle for Talent & Manpower"

Is Malaysia on the losing end of the battle for brains and brawn?

It's estimated that there are 2 million Malaysians who have emigrated abroad with the annual number said to be increasing in recent years. A quarter of Malaysian émigrés are skilled professionals, including doctors, engineers, and scientists. Meanwhile, the race to accelerate the country's economic growth requires highly-skilled human resources, and industries lament that there is not enough talent to go around.

There is a crisis as well in terms of semi-skilled labour due to an insufficient supply of foreign labour and local TVET* graduates. Between the brain drain and brawn shortage, the human resource landscape seems increasingly bleak. Is this so, and if true, what can industry, academia, and government do to address this chasm between supply and demand?

**Technical Vocational Education and Training*

This session will bring to the fore issues related to talent and manpower in Malaysia, with a focus on potential remedies and resolutions.

MODERATOR: Mr Chiam Hsing Ren
Chief Growth Officer, SEEK Asia

- **Hajah Mahuran Saro Dato' Haji Sariki**
Vice President, Group Research, Development & Policy, and Malaysian Professional Talent, TalentCorp Malaysia
- **Mr Zulkifli Zainal Abidin**
Chief Human Resources Officer, Sime Darby Plantation
- **Mr Mahmood Razak Bahman**
Head, Group Strategic Communications, DRB-HICOM Berhad
- **Mr Farul Azim Mohd Ghazali**
Director, Technology Solutioning, AwanBiru Technology Berhad

SESSION C

“The Future of Renewable Energy in Malaysia”

Malaysia aims to be a carbon-neutral nation by 2050, with an Renewable Energy (RE) roadmap that hinges on four sources of energy: solar, biomass, biogas, and hydro.

The goal is for 40% of installed capacity to be from renewable sources by 2035. While the future looks bright for the RE sector, achievements have not been stellar; based on its latest nationally determined contributions (NDC), Malaysia’s 2030 emissions are still expected to increase from 2018 levels and exceed Southeast Asia (SEA) 2030 averages. While there is a strong push by government and companies for green initiatives such as the SBTI (Science Based Targets initiative) and green financing, the sector faces hurdles in terms of costs, technology, awareness, and adoption.

This panel discusses the future of renewable energy in Malaysia by delving into its present state, outlining current challenges, and offering recommendations for a cleaner and greener Malaysia.

MODERATOR: **Mr Romil Shamsudin**

Founder and CEO, Sustainability Engineering Sdn Bhd

- **Mr Yeoh Keong Hann**
Executive Director, YTL Power International Berhad
- **Mr Rashyid Redza Anwarudin**
Chief Sustainability Officer, Sime Darby Plantation
- **Mr Akhramsyah Muammar Ubaidah Bin Tan Sri Sanusi**
Founder & CEO, Kitaran Tabah Sdn Bhd
- **Dato’ Hamzah Bin Hussin**
CEO, Sustainable Energy Development Authority (SEDA)

2.30 PM - CONCURRENT SESSIONS

SESSION D

“In Transit: Strengthening Malaysia’s Resilience and Competitiveness as a Global Logistics Hub”

The Covid-19 pandemic and its lockdowns changed how the world produced, distributed, and consumed goods and services.

With the pandemic over, the industry faces new challenges: international conflicts leading to reduced port facilities as well as delivery bottlenecks, and acute manpower shortages. In addition to these challenges, Malaysia’s logistics sector faces hurdles in the form of transport costs, clearing efficiency, and timeliness of shipments. Given that logistics is expected to contribute 6.5% to the national GDP by the year 2030, how can the logistics industry in Malaysia ramp up productivity to become a leading international logistics hub?

This panel will discuss how the pandemic has changed logistics in Malaysia, as well as the innovations and recent developments within the sector as it redoubles efforts to become one of the world’s best logistics hubs.

MODERATOR: **Mr Fazil Irwan Som**

Chief Executive Officer, Penang Halal International

- **Dato’ Azman Shah Mohd Yusof**
Chief Executive Officer, Northport (Malaysia) Bhd
- **Mr Mark Jason Thomas**
Chief Executive Officer, MAB Kargo Sdn Bhd
- **Datuk Paduka Hamie Appala Nakkiah**
Group Managing Director, Biforst Holding Sdn Bhd

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SESSION E

“Inflation & The Malaysian Consumer”

If there is a consistent thread running through post-pandemic 2022, it is “higher prices”.

With Malaysia’s inflation rate hitting 4.4% in June 2022, a 14-month high, the cost of living has become a top concern for many Malaysians. The rising prices are not only due to supply issues caused by the Russia-Ukraine war and the lockdowns in China but also to a weak Ringgit which has made imports more expensive.

To assist B40 households cope with rising prices, the government has had to increase subsidies. This year, the Malaysian subsidy bill (including oil and gas) is a whopping RM77 billion. To cool inflation, our central bank has increased interest rates but this adds to the debt burdens of Malaysian households at a time when many are recovering from the lockdowns.

When are the inflationary pressures expected to end in Malaysia, and what will be the resulting scenario?

This panel will discuss the wider impact of inflation on Malaysian consumers, alternative policy responses, and the path forward.

MODERATOR: Dato’ Dr Vaseehar Hassan Abdul Razack

Associate, Kets de Vries Institute

- **Mr Lee Heng Guie**

Executive Director, Socio-Economic Research Centre (SERC)

- **Mr Firdaos Rosli**

Chief Economist, Bank Islam Malaysia Berhad

- **Dr Shahridan Faiez**

Advisor on Economic Matters, Consumers’ Association of Penang

SESSION F

“The State of Malaysian Government Finances & The Impact of Policy Imperatives”

In think tanks and mamak stalls, the Malaysian government debt (RM1 trillion as of June 2022) and the government’s economic initiatives almost always ignite heated discussions and debates.

This panel will open up the discussion on these issues, focusing on the state of our national finances as well as 12th Malaysia Plan (2021-2025) and the 2023 National Budget. What is the true standing of our national finances and what are the impact of the government’s economic policies. Are they addressing current socio-economic challenges as well as future aspirations?

MODERATOR: Datuk Emeritus Prof Dr Norma Mansur

Director of Social Wellbeing Research Centre, University of Malaya

- **Mr Nicholas Khaw**

Trustee of Khazanah Research Institute & Head of Research at Khazanah Nasional Berhad, Khazanah Research Institute

- **Prof Dr Jomo Kwame Sundaram**

Senior Adviser, Khazanah Research Institute

4.00 pm - Closing Session

with **YABhg Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad**

former Prime Minister of Malaysia and Honorary President, Perdana Leadership Foundation

“What Does the Future Hold for Malaysia?”