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NATIONAL ECONOMIC OUTLOOK CONFERENCE

TOWARDS INNOVATION-BASED ECONOMY

27 November 2025

AFFIN @ TRX, KUALA LUMPUR

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TOWARDS INNOVATION-BASED ECONOMY

In today's rapidly changing global environment, the shift towards an innovation-based economy has become not only inevitable but also essential for sustained national development. Countries around the world are recognizing that relying solely on traditional resources or low-cost labor is no longer sufficient to secure long-term prosperity. Instead, a strong emphasis on creativity, technology, and knowledge is required to build resilient and competitive economies.

Innovation economics teaches us that technological advancements and novel ideas serve as the backbone of economic growth and social progress. To nurture this, it is vital to have comprehensive policies that protect intellectual property rights, thereby encouraging inventors and entrepreneurs to bring their ideas to fruition with confidence. Equally important is ensuring that adequate funding is accessible for research and innovation, whether through government grants, private investments, or venture capital.

Moreover, the rise of digitalisation presents remarkable opportunities to accelerate innovation. Technologies such as artificial intelligence, big data, and the Internet of Things are transforming industries and enhancing productivity in ways previously unimaginable. For Malaysia, embracing these digital tools alongside investing in quality education and skill development will be critical steps toward creating an ecosystem where innovation thrives.

By fostering collaboration between academia, industry, and government, and by thoughtfully reducing bureaucratic hurdles, Malaysia can cultivate an environment conducive to creative thinking and sustainable economic growth. It is through such collective and forward-looking efforts that the nation can realize its vision of becoming a dynamic, innovation-led economy, contributing positively not only to its own citizens but also to the global community.

PROGRAMME

Day / Time	AGENDA
27 November 2025 (Thursday)	
8.30 am – 9.00 am	Registration
9.00 am – 9.05 am	**Remarks** Tan Sri Mohd Effendi Bin Norwawi Chairman, MIER
9.05 am – 11.35 am	**SESSION 1: MALAYSIAN, ASIAN & WORLD ECONOMIC OUTLOOK, 2026-2027** **Moderator:** Tan Sri Dr Sulaiman Mahbob, Executive Director of MIER **World Economic Outlook** By Dr Apurva Sanghi Lead Economist, World Bank Malaysia **Economic Outlook for Developing Asia** by James Villafuerte Regional Lead Economist of the Southeast Asia Department at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) **Remarks on Malaysian Economic Development** by Prof Dr Jomo Kwame Sundaram Research Advisor, Khazanah Research Institute (KRI) **Malaysian Economic Outlook** by Dr Khalid Abdul Hamid MIER Non-Resident Senior Fellow Q&A
11:35 am - 11:50am	Refreshments
11.50 am - 11.55 am	**Welcoming Remarks** Tan Sri Mohd Effendi Bin Norwawi Chairman, MIER
11.55 am- 12.30 pm	**OFFICIAL OPENING:** **YB SENATOR DATUK SERI AMIR HAMZAH AZIZAN** **MINISTER OF FINANCE II**
12.30 am- 1.30 pm	Lunch
1.30 am- 2.00 pm	**Geopolitics and the World Economy** Dr Jeffrey Sachs, American economist and public policy analyst, Columbia University – Online (tbc)

2.00 pm – 3.30 pm	**SESSION 2: INNOVATION THE BEDROCK FOR FUTURE GROWTH AND PROSPERITY / FROM INNOVATION TO ECONOMIC GROWTH AND CORPORATE PROSPERITY** **Moderator:** Datuk K. Yogeesvaran, MIER Non-Resident Senior Fellow **Panellist 1** Dr Ramli Nordin, Executive Manager-(RMU) of Ministry of Economy (MOE) **Panellist 2** Callum Chen, President of Malaysian Consortium of Mid-Tier Companies (MCMTC) **Panellist 3** Datuk Wira Dr. Rais Hussin Mohamed Ariff Founder, Non-Executive Chairman, EMIR Research **Panellist 4** Mr Leeroy Ting Kah Sing, Head Public Affair, Carsome **Panellist 5** Dr Larry C.Y. Wong, MIER Non-Resident Senior Fellow
3.30 pm – 4.00 pm	Q&A and Refreshment
4.00 pm – 5.00pm	**SESSION 3: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN THE MAKING** **China's Tech Journey: From Belief to Leadership in AI (Lessons for ASEAN and Malaysia)** **Speaker:** Prof. Ts. Dr David Ngo Chek Ling President and Vice-Chancellor Kuala Lumpur University of Science and Technology Q&A
5.00 pm – 5.25pm	**SESSION 4: MALAYSIAN ECONOMIC OUTLOOK FROM BANKER PERSPECTIVE** **Speaker:** Alan Tan Chew Leong, Chief Economics of Affin Bank Q&A
5.25 pm – 5.30pm	**CLOSING SESSION** Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr Sulaiman Mahbob, Executive Director of MIER *End of Programme*