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Azman Hashim
Centre for Entrepreneurship
and Innovation Research



AFFIN GROUP

NATIONAL ECONOMIC OUTLOOK CONFERENCE

*AI & Economic Resilience
with Inclusive Growth*

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

MENARA AFFIN @ TRX, KUALA LUMPUR

26 November 2026

NATIONAL ECONOMIC OUTLOOK CONFERENCE

AI & Economic Resilience with Inclusive Growth

AI AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE WITH INCLUSIVE GROWTH

The 2026 National Economic Outlook Conference (NEOC) examines how Artificial Intelligence (AI) can strengthen Malaysia's economic resilience, productivity and competitiveness while ensuring that its benefits are broadly shared. With AI adoption in Malaysia rising rapidly, policymakers face the challenge of enabling innovation while preparing businesses, workers and communities for a changing economy. Recent global disruptions have also highlighted the need for stronger capacity to anticipate risks, adapt quickly and sustain growth.

The conference focuses on four key sessions. The first examines Global, Asian and Malaysian Economic Trends and Risks, with a focus on the Economic Outlook 2027–2028. The second, AI and Economic Dynamism, explores how artificial intelligence can enhance productivity, innovation and economic resilience. The third, AI in Labour Market Transformation, focuses on strengthening skills, reskilling and workforce readiness in an AI-driven economy. The fourth, AI and Economic Sustainability, examines how AI can support green growth, and improve resource efficiency. By bringing together policymakers, industry leaders, academics and communities, NEOC 2026 aims to generate practical insights and policy perspectives on harnessing AI as a driver of resilient, sustainable and inclusive economic growth.



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PROGRAMME

Time	Agenda
8:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Registration
9:00 AM - 9:05 AM	Remarks Tan Sri Mohd Effendi Bin Norwawi Chairman, Malaysian Institute of Economic Research (MIER)
9:05 AM - 9:35 AM	AI & Social Inclusivity Tan Sri Andrew Sheng Distinguished Fellow of Asia Global Institute, University of Hong Kong
9:35 AM - 10:45 AM	SESSION 1: WORLD, REGIONAL, AND MALAYSIAN ECONOMIC OUTLOOK, 2027–2028 Moderator: Prof. Jomo Kwame Sundaram (TBC) Research Advisor, Khazanah Research Institute (KRI) World Economic Outlook Mr. Deisigan Shammugam Economist, World Bank Malaysia Economic Outlook for Developing Asia Mr. James Villafuerte Regional Lead Economist, Asian Development Bank (ADB) Malaysian Economic Outlook Tan Sri Dr. Sulaiman Mahbob Executive Director, Malaysian Institute of Economic Research (MIER) Q&A
10:45 AM - 11:05 AM	Refreshments
11:05 AM - 12:00 PM	Welcoming Remarks Tan Sri Mohd Effendi Bin Norwawi, Chairman, Malaysian Institute of Economic Research (MIER) Official Opening YB Tuan Gobind Singh Deo (TBC) Minister of Digital, Malaysia Book Launch - Defence Economics and National Development - The Entrepreneurship Ecosystem in Malaysia
12:00 PM - 12:30 PM	MALAYSIA'S NEXT GROWTH PHASE: TURNING THE AI BOOM INTO SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE PROSPERITY Presenter: Mr. Vincent Loo Yeong Hong Senior Economist, Affin Hwang Investment Bank

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Time	Agenda
12:30 PM - 2:00 PM	Lunch
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM	SESSION 2: LEVERAGING AI FOR ECONOMIC DYNAMISM AND STABILITY The session explores how AI can strengthen productivity, competitiveness, investment and innovation, while supporting economic resilience and stability. It will also consider how businesses can translate AI adoption into measurable economic value and broader growth opportunities. Presenter & Moderator: Ms. Aireen Omar (TBC) Chairperson, AI Malaysia Berhad Discussant 1: Mr. Hussein Mohd Ali (TBC) Country Manager, Amazon Web Services Malaysia Discussant 2: Datuk Ts. Mahadhir Aziz (TBC) Group Managing Director, Johor Corporation Former Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC) Discussant 3: Professor Dr. Premkumar Rajagopal President, Malaysia University of Science and Technology (MUST) Q&A
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM	SESSION 3: AI IN LABOUR MARKET TRANSFORMATION The session explores how AI is changing jobs and skills, and how Malaysia can strengthen reskilling, upskilling and workforce readiness to help workers adapt and benefit from new opportunities in an AI-driven economy. Presenter & Moderator: Dr. Vijayakumari Kanapathy MIER Non-Resident Senior Fellow Discussant 1: Dato' Sri Dr. Mohammed Azman bin Dato' Aziz Mohammed Chief Executive Officer, PERKESO Discussant 2: Ms. Biruntha Mooruthi (TBC) Chief Executive Officer, TalentCorp Discussant 3: Dato' Dr. Ahmad Ibrahim MIER Non-Resident Senior Fellow Q&A

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Time	Agenda
4:00 PM - 4:15 PM	Refreshment
4:15 PM - 5:15 PM	SESSION 4: AI AND ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY This session examines how AI can support sustainable and inclusive economic development through higher productivity, better resource management, environmental protection and improved policy decision-making. It will also discuss the challenges of AI adoption, including its environmental impact, governance and social inclusion. Presenter & Moderator: YBhg. Datuk Dr. Suhana binti Md.Saleh Director of Macroeconomics Division, Ministry of Economy Discussant 1: Brigadier Jeneral Dato' Pahlawan Sr Dr. Mohd Zambri bin Mohamad Rabab (TBC) Director of Defence Geospatial Division, Department of Survey and Mapping, Malaysia Discussant 2: Mr. Saiful Adib bin Abdul Munaff (TBC) Chief Executive Officer (CEO), MGTC (Malaysian Green Technology & Climate Change Corporation) Discussant 3: Dr. Khairil Ahmad Director, MySDG Centre for Social Inclusion, All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia for Sustainable Development Goals (APPGM- SDG) Q&A
5:15 PM	Closing Remarks
End of Conference	

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Organised by



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