



ahnceir

Azman Hashim
Centre for Entrepreneurship
and Innovation Research



AFFIN GROUP

NATIONAL ECONOMIC OUTLOOK CONFERENCE

*AI & Economic Resilience
with Inclusive Growth*

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

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, Labour and Education, focuses on strengthening skills, reskilling and workforce readiness in an AI-driven economy. The fourth, AI and Sustainability, examines how AI can support green growth, improve resource efficiency and strengthen disaster resilience. 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 (TBC) 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 Dr. Apurva Sanghi (TBC) Lead 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 Haji Akmal Nasrullah bin Mohd Nasir Minister of Economy, Malaysia (TBC) Book Launch - Defence Economics and National Development - The Entrepreneurship Ecosystem in Malaysia
12:00 PM - 12:30 PM	MALAYSIAN ECONOMIC OUTLOOK : A BANKER'S PERSPECTIVE Presenter: Affin Bank Economist (TBC)

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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 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 Discussant 3: Ms. Christina Tee (TBC) President, Malaysian International Chamber of Commerce & Industry Q&A
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM	SESSION 3: AI IN LABOUR MARKET TRANSFORMATION Presenter & Moderator: Dr. Vijayakumari Kanapathy MIER Non-Resident Senior Fellow Discussant 1: Dato' Sri Dr.Mohammed Azman bin Dato' Aziz Mohammed, (TBC) Chief Executive Officer, PERKESO Discussant 2: Ms. Biruntha Mooruthi, (TBC) Chief Executive Officer, TalentCorp Discussant 3: Mr. Anuar Fariz Fadzil Chief Executive Officer, MDEC 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 Presenter & Moderator: YBhg. Datuk Seri Nor Azmie bin Diron Secretary General, Ministry of Economy (TBC) 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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