MIER ahceir Azman Hashim Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation Research AFFIN GROUP

NATIONAL ECONOMIC OUTLOOK CONFERENCE

AI & Economic Resilience with Inclusive Growth

MENARA AFFIN @ TRX, KUALA LUMPUR

26 November 2026

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, Impact of AI on Labour Market and Economy, explores how AI is impacting the labour market and economy. It focuses on how Malaysia can strengthen reskilling, upskilling, and workforce readiness to help workers adapt and benefit from new opportunities 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 - 9:40 AM	**Official Opening and Welcoming Remarks** Tan Sri Mohd Effendi Bin Norwawi Chairman, Malaysian Institute of Economic Research (MIER) **Book Launch** • Defence Economics and National Development • The Entrepreneurship Ecosystem in Malaysia
9:40 AM - 10:10 AM	**AI & Social Inclusivity** Tan Sri Andrew Sheng Distinguished Fellow of Asia Global Institute, University of Hong Kong
10:10 AM - 10:40 AM	Refreshments
10:40 AM - 11:50 AM	**SESSION 1: WORLD, REGIONAL, AND MALAYSIAN ECONOMIC OUTLOOK** **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
11:50 AM - 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:** Mr. Azrani Rustam Corporate Affairs and Public Policy Leader | Director, Corporate and Business Development, One Ocean Environment Sdn Bhd **Discussant 1:** Mr. Alhafidz Yahya Director of Innovation and Acting CEO, AI Malaysia **Discussant 2:** Dato' Dr. Ahmad Ibrahim Non-Resident Senior Fellow, MIER **Discussant 3:** Professor Dr. Premkumar Rajagopal President, Malaysia University of Science and Technology (MUST) Q&A
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM	**SESSION 3: IMPACT OF AI ON LABOUR MARKET AND ECONOMY** The session explores how AI is impacting the labour market and economy, 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 Independent Consultant & Non-Resident Senior Fellow, MIER **Discussant 1:** Dato' Sri Dr. Mohammed Azman bin Dato' Aziz Mohammed Chief Executive Officer, PERKESO **Discussant 2:** Ms. Biruntha Mooruthi Chief Executive Officer, TalentCorp **Discussant 3:** Dr. Md Fauzi bin Md Ismail Chief Executive Officer, Malaysia Board of Technologists (MBOT) 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 Macroeconomics Division, Ministry of Economy (Representing the Secretary General, Ministry of Economy) **Discussant 1:** YBhg. Brigedier Jeneral Professor Ir. Dr. Norazman bin Mohamad Nor (Bersara) Chief Business Development Officer (CBDO), Strategic Business Unit (SBU), National Defence University of Malaysia **Discussant 2:** Dr. Gary Theseira Council Chairman, Climate Governance Malaysia **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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