

Leaders of ASEAN Member States gather in Kuala Lumpur for the Opening Ceremony of the 47th ASEAN Summit, marking the culmination of Malaysia's 2025 Chairmanship.



OPENING CEREMONY 47TH ASEAN SUMMIT AND RELATED SUMMITS 26 OCTOBER 2025 KUALA LUMPUR



Building One ASEAN

FROM POLICY TO PROSPERITY UNDER MALAYSIA'S LEADERSHIP

When Malaysia assumed the ASEAN Chairmanship in 2025, expectations were high. Guided by the theme "Inclusivity and Sustainability," Malaysia led a year defined by purpose and results — a Chairmanship that turned long-discussed ambitions into action. Years of preparation, coordination, and quiet groundwork culminated in the 47th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits in Kuala Lumpur, where leaders from across the region and key dialogue partners gathered to reaffirm their shared commitment to deeper integration, innovation, and equitable growth.

The Summit was more than a ceremonial conclusion — it was a defining moment that showcased ASEAN's collective resilience and Malaysia's leadership in translating ideas into impact. Under the direction of Prime Minister YAB Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and the stewardship of YB Senator Tengku Datuk Seri Utama Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz, Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry (MITI), ASEAN achieved substantial progress: 17 out of 18 Priority Economic Deliverables (PEDs) were completed or advanced, setting a new benchmark for regional cooperation and economic delivery.



Malaysia's Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry, YB Senator Tengku Datuk Seri Utama Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz addresses the media on the Malaysia-U.S. Agreement on Reciprocal Tariffs during a press conference held in conjunction with the 47th ASEAN Summit.

Throughout the year, MITI's leadership was pivotal in driving the ASEAN economic agenda. Tengku Zafrul's focus on execution, accountability, and partnership ensured that each initiative under Malaysia's chairmanship was not only ambitious but achievable. From the early technical meetings in January to the

leader-level negotiations in October, MITI maintained close coordination with ASEAN counterparts, the private sector, and development partners — ensuring that each deliverable translated into practical outcomes for trade, investment, and people's livelihoods.

Malaysia's leadership also redefined what Inclusivity and Sustainability mean in practice.

The focus extended beyond policy declarations to on-the-ground results — improving access for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), expanding digital connectivity, and creating greener, more resilient supply chains.

This approach positioned ASEAN not just as a diplomatic grouping, but as an integrated economic community ready to serve as Asia's next growth engine.

Malaysia's 2025 chairmanship was built on the conviction that ASEAN's credibility rests on delivery. The 18 PEDs set out early in the year became the roadmap for progress — covering digital integration, sustainable energy, MSME development, and trade facilitation.

By the time leaders convened in Kuala Lumpur, 17 of them had reached completion or implementation stage.

These achievements did not happen overnight. Months before the Summit, Malaysia and other member states worked through sectoral meetings and working groups to align national interests with regional goals. MITI's stewardship was pivotal — ensuring that economic



Business leaders, policymakers, and investors convene at ABIS 2025 to discuss digital transformation, green investment, and regional value chains.

cooperation was not confined to policy papers but linked to practical business outcomes.

Across 2025, Malaysia hosted or co-led over 20 key economic-pillar events, from the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit (ABIS) and ASEAN Investment Forum (AIF) to the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) meetings and the ASEAN Semiconductor Summit (ASEMIS). These gatherings were designed not just as conferences, but as collaboration platforms connecting investors, policymakers, and innovators.

ASEAN's economic fundamentals provided a strong foundation for this momentum. With a combined GDP of about USD 3.8 trillion and a population of over 684 million, ASEAN ranks as the world's fifth-largest economy. Intra-ASEAN trade represents roughly 24 percent of total trade, and foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows reached USD 230 billion in 2023. Malaysia's strategy was to make ASEAN's growth more inclusive — ensuring that its benefits extended beyond major corporations to small and medium enterprises, communities, and workers.



A historic joint session of ASEAN Foreign and Economic Ministers aligns diplomacy and trade priorities to advance ASEAN's integration agenda.

One of the most significant milestones of the year was the progress on the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA). This initiative aims to harmonise rules on cross-border data flows, digital payments, cybersecurity, and online consumer protection. Studies project that ASEAN's digital economy could reach USD 2 trillion by 2030, and DEFA lays the foundation for that growth.

For SMEs, it reduces the cost and complexity of selling goods and services across borders, opening doors to millions of new customers.

The ASEAN Semiconductor Summit (ASEMIS) further underscored Southeast Asia's growing importance in the global chip supply chain.

Malaysia, already among the top 10 semiconductor exporters, championed deeper regional cooperation in this critical sector. The summit's outcome — a joint plan for supply chain resilience — positioned ASEAN as a credible alternative hub amid global shifts in manufacturing.

HANDOVER CEREMONY OF THE SECOND PROTOCOL TO AMEND THE ASEAN TRADE IN GOODS AGREEMENT (ATIGA) 26 OCTOBER 2025, KUALA LUMPUR

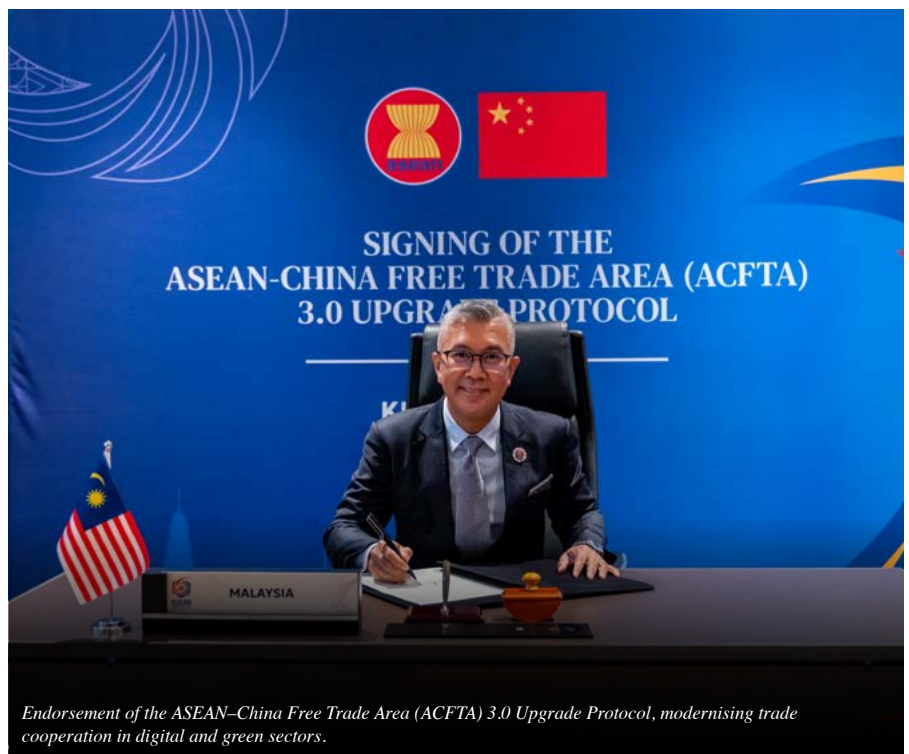


Handover Ceremony of The Second Protocol to amend the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA)

At the same time, inclusivity remained central. The ASEAN Inclusive Business Forum and the establishment of the ASEAN MSME Green Transition Centre reflected Malaysia's focus on ensuring that smaller firms were part of the region's growth narrative. Across the region, SMEs make up 97 percent of businesses and employ more than 70 percent of the workforce. These initiatives provided practical support — from digitalisation training to green financing — enabling smaller enterprises to compete on sustainable terms.

Sustainability was another pillar of the 2025 Chairmanship. ASEAN members agreed on an ambitious plan to raise renewable energy capacity to 45 percent by 2030 and reduce energy intensity by 40 percent from 2005 levels. Malaysia's leadership encouraged investment dialogues that connected public policy to private capital — matching clean-energy projects with financing from regional banks, development partners, and investors.

The ASEAN Circular Economy Forum and Green Investment Forums highlighted opportunities in sustainable manufacturing and waste-to-value industries, encouraging public-private partnerships to drive the region's low-carbon transition. These efforts built upon Malaysia's own national agenda under the New Industrial Master Plan 2030, which emphasises sustainability, digitalisation, and high-value industries.



Endorsement of the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (ACFTA) 3.0 Upgrade Protocol, modernising trade cooperation in digital and green sectors.

Trade facilitation remained a defining feature of Malaysia's year in the chair. Upgrades to the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA) and continued progress under the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) expanded opportunities for goods and services to move more efficiently across the region. Meanwhile, the launch of negotiations for the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area Upgrade (ACFTA 3.0) reinforced the region's commitment to open, rules-based trade.

ASEAN also made strides in improving regional logistics and customs procedures — vital to strengthening supply chains. Simplified digital customs systems and mutual recognition of e-certificates are expected to reduce clearance times and costs for exporters. For a region where intra-ASEAN trade is projected to grow to 30 percent of total trade by 2030, these reforms are critical to sustaining momentum.



Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the United States (U.S.) gather on the occasion of the 13th ASEAN-U.S. Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 26 October 2025.



The Government of Malaysia and the Government of the Republic of Korea formally sign the Joint Statement on the Conclusion of the Malaysia-Republic of Korea Free Trade Agreement during a ceremony held alongside the 47th ASEAN Summit.

Malaysia's bilateral diplomacy during the Summit added further weight. The signing of the Malaysia–Republic of Korea Free Trade Agreement (MROKFTA) and the Malaysia–U.S. Agreement on Reciprocal Tariffs underscored Malaysia's role as a connector between ASEAN and major global economies.

These partnerships complement ASEAN's larger goal of building economic resilience through diversified markets and sustainable investment.

The success of the 2025 Chairmanship can be measured not only in documents signed or meetings held, but in how it benefits ASEAN's people. The PEDs were designed to make growth more inclusive and accessible — to create jobs, empower entrepreneurs, and strengthen social resilience.

For instance, under the digital trade framework, small businesses can now access new markets through interoperable e-payment systems and regional e-commerce platforms.



Malaysia's Prime Minister, YAB Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and U.S. President Donald Trump present the signed Reciprocal Trade Agreement at the 47th ASEAN Summit.

Initiatives supporting MSMEs — such as the Green Transition Centre — will train 10,000 small enterprises over the next three years to adopt sustainable practices and access carbon financing mechanisms.

Prime Minister YAB Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim underscored this human focus during the Summit's closing press conference: "Our goal is not just to grow faster, but to grow fairly — to ensure that every worker, every business, and every nation in ASEAN feels the benefits of progress."

By the close of the 47th ASEAN Summit, the region had reaffirmed its relevance in the global economy.

The year's outcomes — from digital frameworks and energy agreements to SME empowerment initiatives — collectively strengthened ASEAN's position as an integrated, innovative, and sustainable economic community.

Malaysia's disciplined approach transformed the way ASEAN delivers. Each PED was assigned clear metrics, timelines, and implementing agencies. This results-oriented model has since been recognised as a new standard for ASEAN governance — ensuring that future chairmanships remain focused on delivery.

At the institutional level, Malaysia's efforts revitalised cross-sectoral cooperation between ministries, private sectors, and civil society. The partnership-driven approach demonstrated that ASEAN's unity lies not in uniformity, but in the ability to align diverse national priorities around shared regional goals.

As the region moves into the next phase of its integration journey, the lessons of 2025 are clear: collaboration works best when paired with accountability, and inclusivity is strongest when backed by opportunity. The groundwork laid during Malaysia's chairmanship has equipped ASEAN to handle new challenges — from digital disruption and supply-chain diversification to climate adaptation and energy transition.

The 47th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits in Kuala Lumpur will be remembered not only for its agreements and declarations but for its substance — a demonstration that ASEAN can evolve and deliver. The year proved that the region's diversity is not a constraint, but its competitive advantage.



Prime Minister of Malaysia, YAB Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, attends the Bloomberg Business Summit Dinner, engaging global leaders and investors on ASEAN's economic outlook.

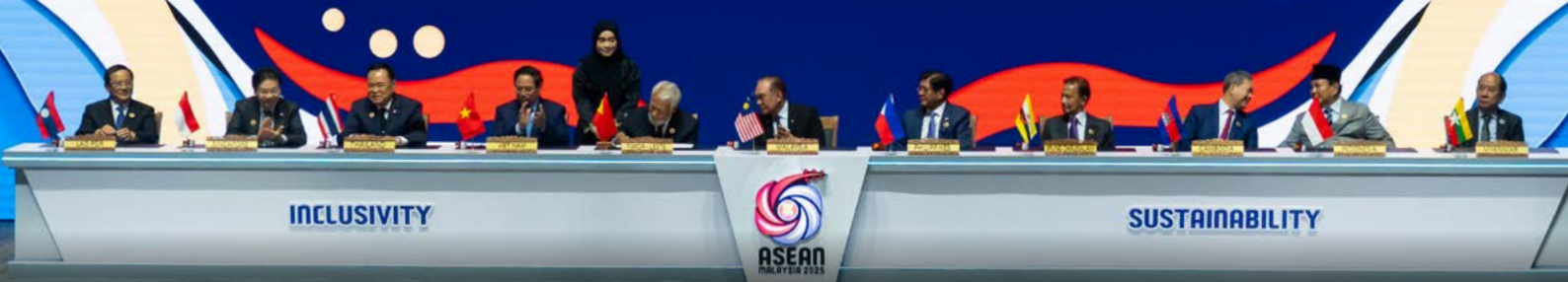
Malaysia's 2025 Chairmanship reaffirmed ASEAN's identity as a community built on cooperation, inclusivity, and sustainability. Through strategic leadership, pragmatic diplomacy, and tireless coordination, Malaysia helped shape a future where regional integration translates into real-world progress — where trade creates jobs, technology empowers people, and sustainability drives growth.

As ASEAN looks toward 2030 and beyond, the message of 2025 endures: unity is strength, and inclusivity ensures that strength is shared. The 47th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits was not the end of a cycle, but the beginning of a new chapter — one defined by resilience, shared prosperity, and the collective will to deliver on the promise of a truly connected ASEAN.



28th ASEAN Plus Three Summit

SIGNING CEREMONY THE DECLARATION ON THE ADMISSION OF TIMOR-LESTE INTO ASEAN 26 OCTOBER 2025 KUALA LUMPUR



ASEAN Leaders witness the signing of the Declaration on the Admission of Timor-Leste, welcoming the bloc's 11th member during Malaysia's ASEAN Chairmanship.



Malaysia's Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry, Tengku Zafrul, and the Secretary-General of ASEAN, H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn exchange commemorative plaques in recognition of their close cooperation during Malaysia's 2025 ASEAN Chairmanship.



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry of the Republic of Singapore, H.E. Mr. Gan Kim Yong, presents a token of appreciation to Malaysia's Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry, YB Senator Tengku Datuk Seri Utama Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz, as a gesture of goodwill and enduring partnership.



Shared vision for growth: dignitaries from member states and Japan pose at the summit in Malaysia.

28TH ASEAN PLUS THREE SUMMIT

27 OCTOBER 2025, KUALA LUMPUR



ASEAN, China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea strengthen financial cooperation and regional food security through the Plus Three framework.



Malaysia and Brazil strengthen cooperation in renewable energy and sustainable investment under ASEAN's expanding external partnerships.



Malaysia and Brazil formalise a Memorandum of Understanding to enhance collaboration in bioeconomy and green technology.



Prime Minister of Malaysia, YAB Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, meets with President of the Republic of South Africa, H.E. Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, to strengthen bilateral cooperation and explore new avenues for trade and investment.

24 OCTOBER 2025 KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA



YB Senator Tengku Datuk Seri Utama Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz, Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry of Malaysia, delivers remarks at the press conference immediately following the 26th AECC Meeting on 24 October 2025

5TH REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP (RCEP) SUMMIT

27 OCTOBER 2025, KUALA LUMPUR



Leaders reaffirm their commitment to the world's largest trade pact, enhancing supply-chain resilience and inclusive economic growth.



Malaysia's Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry, YB Senator Tengku Datuk Seri Utama Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz addresses delegates at the 3rd ASEAN Investment Forum, emphasising sustainable growth and regional investment cooperation.



Bridging sectors and borders — a moment of consensus among the attendees at the business summit



Leaders of ASEAN and the Republic of Korea commit to advancing green growth and digital partnership across Southeast Asia