



WELCOMING REMARKS

**HONOURABLE DATUK SERI JOHARI ABDUL GHANI
ACTING MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

**MINISTERIAL DINNER OF 18TH ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON
THE ENVIRONMENT (AMME) AND RELATED MEETINGS**

**3 SEPTEMBER 2025 (WEDNESDAY)
PARKROYAL HOTEL, LANGKAWI**

The Excellencies Heads of Delegation of ASEAN Member States,

His Excellency Secretary General of ASEAN,

Distinguished delegates,

Esteemed partners,

Ladies and gentlemen,

A very good evening to everyone and a very warm welcome or selamat datang to Malaysia.

1. On behalf of the Government of Malaysia and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability (NRES), it is a genuine pleasure to welcome you to this Ministerial Dinner of the 18th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (AMME) and its Related Meetings. We are so glad to have you here in Langkawi, a UNESCO Global Geopark that truly embodies our commitment to sustainability.

Ladies and gentlemen,

2. Today's meeting has been incredibly productive. We've had meaningful discussions and tomorrow, we will continue our sessions with our ASEAN partners to address various issues. I trust that these conversations will be valuable and will help guide us toward a stronger regional cooperation. What brings us together is the recognition that environmental challenges like climate change and biodiversity loss know no borders, so our solutions must also be unified and collaborative.
3. Malaysia is proud of the milestones achieved during this meeting, especially the official endorsement of three new ASEAN Heritage Parks: Tengku Hassan Wildlife Reserve in Pahang, and Bako and Lambir National Parks in Sarawak. Malaysia also congratulates Vietnam for the endorsement of their three sites.

Ladies and gentlemen,

4. Tonight, we also gather for an exceptional highlight of the 18th AMME Gala Dinner - the 6th ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable Cities (ESC) Award and the 5th Certificate of Recognition (COR) Ceremony. These awards honour cities that are shining examples of environmental leadership, innovation, and best practices in creating greener, more resilient, and more liveable communities across our region.

5. Our heartfelt appreciation goes to the ASEAN Secretariat and our valued partners — GIZ, the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) — for their strong collaboration in organising the 6th ESC Award and 5th COR Ceremony, as well as co-hosting the regional workshop held in conjunction with this event. Your dedication has greatly enriched our collective efforts and the impact of this important occasion.
6. On behalf of Malaysia, I warmly congratulate all awardees. Your achievements are a source of pride for your nations and an inspiration for us all, as we work together to realise our shared vision of a greener, more sustainable, and more resilient ASEAN.

Ladies and gentlemen,

7. As we gather here, let us set aside our formal agendas. I hope you take this opportunity to relax and enjoy the vibrant flavours of our local cuisine and the beautiful sounds of our traditional music. It is in these moments of shared experience that we build the friendships and strengthen the bonds of trust that are essential to our collective mission.
8. I also encourage you to take a moment to enjoy the beauty of Langkawi, whether it's through a cable car ride, a sunset cruise or a stroll along the beach. These informal moments are just as crucial as our formal discussions, it's our way of sharing the best of Malaysia through our nature, culture and people.

9. Looking to the future, let's carry the spirit of ASEAN forward. We must work together to build a collaborative, inclusive, and future-focused environment. By doing so, we can create an ASEAN that is not just economically vibrant, but also environmentally resilient for our people, our planet, and all future generations.
10. Enjoy the vibrant food and the warm welcome of our people. We hope this experience gives you a true taste of Malaysian hospitality, and what makes us 'Malaysia, Truly Asia'.

Thank you and *terima kasih*.