



**KEMENTERIAN SUMBER ASLI
DAN KELESTARIAN ALAM**

OPENING SPEECH

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**OPENING CEREMONY OF
INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY
WEEK (ISW) 2026**

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MITEC, KUALA LUMPUR

[SALUTATION TO BE UPDATED]

Salam Sejahtera, Salam Malaysia MADANI
and a very good afternoon.

1. It gives me immense pleasure to join all of you today for the Opening Ceremony of the inaugural **International Sustainability Week (ISW) 2026**.
2. Allow me first to extend my heartfelt congratulations to **Qube Integrated Malaysia** and **GreenRE** for their vision, leadership, and determination in bringing this landmark event to life. Convening government leaders, industry experts, academic researchers, and multilateral partners under one roof for a debut event is no small task. It requires strong

partnership-building and a shared commitment to long-term action.

3. By bringing together two major platforms—the **International Green Build Conference (IGBC 2026)** and the **International Green Innovation Exhibition (GreenScape)**—under one unified banner, you have created a powerful catalyst for change. This is an ecosystem where high-level ideas meet implementation, where technological innovation connects with finance, and where policy framework translates into practical solutions on the ground.

4. This is precisely what our built environment needs as we accelerate toward a resilient, low-carbon future. We need a platform built for action—one that bridges policymakers, developers, financiers, solution providers, and sustainability professionals to turn climate ambition into measurable outcomes.

Ladies and gentlemen,

5. It has often been said that we are the *first generation* to feel the acute impacts of climate change, and undeniably, the *last generation* who can do something about it. Climate change is no longer a distant environmental topic reserved for future projections. It is an immediate economic, social, and national development

challenge. It is reshaping global competitiveness, redefining how capital is deployed, and altering how communities live and work.

6. Governments worldwide are fast-tracking their transition toward low-carbon economies, and Malaysia is firmly part of this global movement. However, we must be honest about where we stand today.
7. International data from the United Nations and the International Energy Agency shows that buildings account for over one-third of the world's energy consumption and nearly 40% of energy-related GHG emissions. So, every decision we make today, from early urban design and material selection, to retrofitting and daily

operations, will define our carbon footprint for decades to come. .

8. When we build green, we lower our energy use and cut GHG emissions. Most importantly, when we design sustainable and resilient urban centres, we build real protection against climate risks, giving our future generations healthier and more liveable cities to call home.
9. This vision is fully integrated into Malaysia's national blueprint. Under our **Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) 3.0**, Malaysia has committed to peaking greenhouse gas emissions between 2029 and 2034, paving the way toward **Net-Zero emissions by 2050**. Complementing this target is our ambition

to establish **200 Low Carbon Zones nationwide by 2030**, demonstrating how cities, townships, and developments will act as catalysts for our low-carbon transition.

10. Therefore, the theme of this event—*"From Certification to Transformation: Building a Net Zero Future Together"*—could not be timelier. It moves beyond individual green buildings to focus on transforming entire supply chains, industries, and urban landscapes.
11. Certification is an essential first step. It sets benchmarks, instills market confidence, and enforces accountability. But certification alone does not reduce carbon emissions; operational transformation

does. Transformation occurs when sustainability is embedded into every link of the real estate value chain—from planning, financing, and design to construction, operations, and retrofitting.

Ladies and gentlemen,

12. In this regard, I commend **GreenRE** for driving sustainability across Malaysia's built environment. As a home-grown certification body, GreenRE has expanded its assessment frameworks to include indoor environmental quality, energy performance, and occupant health and well-being.

13. To date, GreenRE has certified over **500 million square feet of green developments** and more than **20,000 acres of townships**. Crucially, as of June this year, completed GreenRE-certified projects have delivered over **633 million kilowatt-hours in annual energy savings** and avoided approximately **466,000 tonnes of carbon emissions annually**. These figures demonstrate that higher building standards yield tangible environmental and economic returns.

14. Furthermore, GreenRE's expertise is gaining regional and international recognition, with eight international projects registered across the UK, Australia, Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, and Türkiye. Bilateral

collaborations with green building councils in Singapore, Hong Kong, Cambodia, and Sri Lanka further support knowledge exchange and capacity building.

15. However, momentum cannot rest on one organization alone; it requires a supportive ecosystem. The Government remains committed to providing policy clarity to drive this shift.
16. We introduced the updated **National Policy on Climate Change 2.0 (Dasar Perubahan Iklim negara-DPIN 2.0)**, providing an overarching framework to transition Malaysia towards a low-carbon economy and climate resilience development, while supporting the country's aspiration to achieve net-zero

emissions by 2050. This is aligned with the **National Energy Transition Roadmap (NETR)**, charting pathways for renewable energy, energy efficiency, green mobility, and clean technologies.

17. We recognized that we could not win the fight against climate change without transforming our built environment. Acknowledging this early on, Malaysia introduced the **Low Carbon Cities Framework (LCCF)** in 2011 to set urban baseline metrics, launched the **Low Carbon City 2030 Challenge (LCC2030C)** in 2019 to drive target-driven emission cuts, and established the **National Low Carbon Cities Masterplan (NLCCM)** in 2021 to systematically align municipal policies. To tackle one of our

largest urban emission sources, we complemented these efforts with the **Low Carbon Mobility Blueprint (LCMB) 2021–2030**, driving vehicle electrification, mass transit adoption, and non-motorized transport.

18. Together, these landmark policies form the backbone of our localized decarbonization strategy. By cutting emissions where people live and move every day, they work in direct harmony with the **National Energy Transition Roadmap (NETR)** and our **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** under the Paris Agreement, ensuring our cities lead Malaysia's charge toward net-zero by 2050.

19. Meanwhile, the forthcoming **National Climate Change Bill** will establish a national Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) framework, providing greater transparency and certainty for businesses, investors, and carbon markets.

20. While policy sets our direction, it is financial support that turns ambition into real action. That is why the Government continues to stand behind our businesses at every step of their sustainability journey through three key mechanisms:

- **The Green Investment Tax Allowance (GITA):** Lowering tax liabilities for companies investing in green assets and equipment.

- **The Green Income Tax Exemption (GITE):** Offering tax exemptions to companies providing certified green technology services.
- **The Green Technology Financing Scheme 5.0 (GTFS 5.0):** Backed by an allocation of RM1 billion, this scheme provides a 60% to 80% government guarantee to lower borrowing costs and help businesses secure bank loans for green projects

21. With these supports, we can aim higher for our cities. It is no longer enough for cities to just do less harm; they must become climate-resilient and actively give back to the environment. Tomorrow's

developments must generate clean power, manage water wisely, integrate natural landscapes and use smart technology. We are moving toward a future where our buildings don't just reduce carbon, but help erase it, creating healthier, greener spaces for generations to come.

22. Technology will be a major enabler in this transition:

- I. **Artificial Intelligence (AI):** Optimizes energy consumption in real time.
- II. **Digital Twins & BIM:** Allow planners to simulate performance before construction and streamline workflows to minimize material waste.

III. **Advanced Building Systems:**

Intelligently control lighting and cooling without compromising occupant comfort.

IV. **Low-Carbon Innovations:**

Mass engineered timber, low-carbon concrete, rooftop solar, battery storage, and smart rainwater systems are redefining sustainable construction.

Delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

23. We must remember that sustainability is ultimately about **people**. Our success will be measured by the homes that remain comfortable despite rising temperatures, offices that improve productivity through healthier indoor environments, schools

with naturally ventilated classrooms, hospitals that consume less energy while improving patient care, and walkable communities with abundant green spaces. This human-centric approach lies at the core of the **MADANI vision**.

24. Over the next two days, I encourage all delegates to ask difficult questions, challenge conventional practices, exchange ideas, and build lasting partnerships. Explore new technologies, but above all, leave inspired to drive real change within your respective organizations.

25. To borrow Dr. Jane Goodall's words:
"What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."

26. The transformation of our built environment will not happen through a single policy or project. It will happen through thousands of decisions made daily by architects, engineers, planners, developers, financiers, policymakers, and communities. Together, the difference you make will reshape our skylines, our economy, and the Malaysia we leave for future generations.

27. I once again commend **Qube Integrated Malaysia** and **GreenRE** for convening this landmark event. To all delegates and speakers, I wish you a productive conference.

28. It is now my great honour and privilege to officially declare **International Sustainability Week 2026** open.

Thank you.