



OFFICIATING SPEECH BY

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**THE CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE 2026
(CCSC 2026) & THE LAUNCH OF
THE NATIONAL CARBON MARKET POLICY**

21 APRIL 2026

M WORLD HOTEL, PETALING JAYA

SALUTATION (PLEASE CHECK AGAINST VIP ATTENDANCE)

Salam Sejahtera and Salam Malaysia MADANI.

OPENING

1. It is both an honour and a pleasure to join you today for the official opening of the Climate Change and Sustainability Conference 2026 (CCSC 2026) and the launch of the National Carbon Market Policy.
2. Allow me first to congratulate the organiser, Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM), for bringing together such a distinguished gathering of policymakers, scientists, industry and sustainability advocates. I believe your presence reflects a shared recognition that the environmental challenges before us are no longer distant concerns.
3. The theme of this conference: “Building a Resilient Future through Land, Climate and Sustainability for a Net-Zero World” could not be more timely. It reflects an important reality, the solutions to climate change must be deeply rooted in how we manage our land, protect our natural ecosystems and transition towards a sustainable economic system.

Ladies and gentlemen,

CONTEXT SETTING

4. Today, we are facing a triple planetary crisis: climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. These crises together, represent one of the defining challenges of our generation and are reshaping

ecosystems, economies and societies.

5. As we sit here today, each passing moment adds carbon dioxide emissions to the atmosphere and will eventually increase global warming. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) latest report highlighted a very concerning fact. To keep the temperature increase below 1.5 degree Celsius (°C), global greenhouse gas emissions must peak before 2025 at the latest. Every fraction of a degree or every 0.1 degree Celsius (°C), doubles the risk of crossing what scientists call 'tipping points', such as the collapse of the Greenland ice sheet or the Amazon rainforest turning from a carbon sink into a carbon source.

6. Across the globe, the impacts of climate change are becoming increasingly evident. We are witnessing unprecedented heatwaves, extreme rainfall events, prolonged droughts and rising sea levels. However, the problem we are facing does not favour any nation and Malaysia is no exception. Recent years have brought severe floods, coastal erosion, changing rainfall patterns and increasing climate variability that affect our water resources, food security, infrastructure and public health. In fact, we are now bracing ourselves for a severe, extended dry spell with temperatures expected to soar up to 37.5 degree Celsius. This extreme heat will result in water shortages which are expected to persist until at least June.

Ladies and gentlemen,

GLOBAL AND DOMESTIC CLIMATE EFFORTS

7. The science is clear, the urgency is undeniable, and the responsibility must be shared by all nations and all sectors of society. This is why addressing these challenges requires not only national action but also strong international cooperation. As an active participant in global environmental governance including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Environment Assembly, Malaysia remains committed to contributing constructively to global efforts to address these crises.

8. However, we are not merely participating in these forums. On 24th October 2025, the Government have agreed to the latest iteration of our Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) which aims for Malaysia's greenhouse-gas emissions to peak between 2029 and 2034, with the aspiration to peak as early as 2029, provided that enabling conditions and support are in place. This is a significant milestone for a developing economy that is still deeply intertwined with energy-intensive sectors.

9. Beyond the peak, Malaysia commits to achieving an absolute emissions reduction of 15 to 30 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2035, relative to the peak level. This includes an unconditional reduction of up to 20 million tonnes, which we will deliver through our own national efforts; and a conditional reduction of an additional 10 million tonnes, which depends on international support from partners in the form of finance, technology transfer and capacity

building.

10. Furthermore, Malaysia has also committed to achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, reflecting our determination to pursue sustainable development while addressing this global climate challenge.
11. Malaysia is also determined to move from ambition to implementation by translating our climate commitments into concrete action across all sectors of our economy. To do so, the Government has approved the National Climate Change Policy 2.0 (DPIN 2.0) on 25th September 2024. Today marks another important milestone for Malaysia as we will witness the launch of the National Carbon Market Policy (Dasar Pasaran Karbon Kebangsaan, DPKK) as part of DPIN 2.0 strategy.
12. This policy, which was approved by the Cabinet on 1 April 2026, will provide the framework for both voluntary and compliance carbon markets, positioning Malaysia as a credible participant in international carbon trading. To underpin these systems, we are strengthening our carbon market framework and ecosystem, backed by data, to ensure that every tonne of carbon reduced or traded is backed by integrity and trust.
13. Our action does not stop here. We remain determined to continue creating the necessary tools to ensure our policies are effectively implemented. In this regard, one of DPIN 2.0 main strategic thrusts is the establishment of a regulatory instrument in the form of Malaysia's Climate Change Bill or Rang Undang-Undang Perubahan Iklim Negara (RUUPIN). This landmark legislation that we are now finalizing, will

enshrine accountability, transparency, and ambition into law, ensuring that our climate commitments under DPIN 2.0 and the DPKK are not only aspirational but enforceable.

Ladies and gentlemen,

OTHER EFFORTS

14. Climate change does not exist in isolation. It is deeply intertwined with biodiversity loss and environmental pollution. Degraded ecosystems reduce nature's ability to absorb carbon and buffer climate impacts, while pollution threatens both ecological integrity and human wellbeing. We at NRES are determined to play our role in advancing these priorities by integrating climate action with biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management and environmental protection.
15. Addressing these challenges, requires an integrated approach which recognizes the interdependence between climate stability, healthy ecosystems and environmental quality. In this regard, Malaysia is privileged to be one of the world's megadiverse countries. Imagine a small group of only 17 nations holding the key to 70% of all life on Earth and Malaysia is one of them. But being a megadiverse nation is more than a title, it is a mandate. When we protect our forests, we are not just saving Malaysia, we are saving the world's ability to breathe.
16. Our tropical rainforests, peatlands, mangroves, rivers and coral reefs represent ecosystems of extraordinary ecological value. These landscapes are not only national treasures, they are globally significant natural assets. Our forests function as critical carbon sinks. Our mangroves provide natural coastal protection. Our biodiversity

supports food systems, medicine, tourism and cultural heritage.

Ladies and gentlemen,

CONCLUSION

17. Addressing the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution will require bold leadership, sound science and sustained cooperation at every level, from local communities to international partnerships. Malaysia remains firmly committed to advancing climate action, safeguarding biodiversity and promoting sustainable development, while ensuring that the transition to a low-carbon future is inclusive, equitable and just.
18. Therefore, today's conference is important in bridging science with policy and practice. This conference will also provide the platform for dialogue, innovation and collaboration that is essential to accelerate solutions that we have formulated.
19. Today also marks a pivotal moment for our country. The introduction of the National Carbon Market Policy will also ensure that our efforts not only benefit Malaysia, but are also linked to the global effort to address climate and environmental issues. We hope that this policy will shape our climate ecosystem to become more complete and complementary, with active participation from the private and public sector. Thus, I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Ministry's officials and those involved in the making of the National Carbon Market Policy.

Ladies and gentlemen,

CLOSING

20. I was made to understand that this 2 day conference will involve various speakers and participants discussing various issues ranging from climate science, to policies, to on ground implementation. Thus, I invite all of you, government representatives, implementing partners and stakeholders to fully engage in these discussions. Use this platform to inspire new partnerships, identify opportunities, confront challenges and chart a course that is both ambitious and practical.
21. Before I end my speech, I would like to again make a call to all of you. From this moment onwards, let us act with urgency, with courage and with unity so that we may be remembered not as the generation that stood by, but as the architects of a resilient tomorrow.
22. With that, it is my great honour to officially declare the Climate Change and Sustainability Conference 2026 open and announce the launch of the National Carbon Market Policy.

Thank you.