

PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY



SPEECH

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MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY**

**SOFT LAUNCH OF THE
INTERNATIONAL GREENTECH AND ECO PRODUCTS EXHIBITION
AND CONFERENCE MALAYSIA (IGEM) 2024**

26 FEBRUARY 2024 (MONDAY)

3.00 PM

KUALA LUMPUR CONVENTION CENTRE

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and Salam Malaysia Madani

[SALUTATION]

1. **Yang Berbahagia Dr. Ching Thoo a/I Kim**
Secretary General
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability (NRES)
2. **Yang Berbahagia Datuk Wira Arham Abdul Rahman**
Chief Executive Officer
Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA)
3. **Yang Berusaha Tuan Haji Rahimi L. Muhamud**
Chairman
Malaysian Green Technology and Climate Change Corporation (MGTC)
4. **Yang Berusaha Ir. Ts. Shamsul Bahar Mohd Nor**
Group Chief Executive Officer
Malaysian Green Technology and Climate Change Corporation (MGTC)

Esteemed sponsors and partners

Members of the media and distinguished guests.

1. Good afternoon and a very warm welcome to this momentous occasion – the soft launch of the **15th International Greentech and Eco Products Exhibition and Conference Malaysia (IGEM)**. We're pleased to have many of our esteemed sponsors, partners, speakers, and exhibitors with us today.
2. Given IGEM's credible track record over the years, whether in terms of business leads or participation or visitors attending the event, I am confident that the upcoming IGEM will benefit from the vast experience of the organising team from the Ministry, the Malaysian Green

Technology and Climate Change Corporation (MGTC), participating departments and agencies, as well the creative ideas from new partners and collaborations.

3. Over the past 14 years, IGEM has been a key driver in growing the green economy in terms of **generating RM53.1 billion in business leads**, attracting over **600,000 visitors** encompassing high-level ministerial delegations, thought leaders, innovators, corporate leaders, entrepreneurs, as well as the public from over 122 countries.
4. IGEM has also established itself as the centre of technology and knowledge sharing through conferences and dialogues at the leading edge of green technology and sustainable development, bringing together subject matter experts, policymakers, and researchers to share their insights with the rest of the world, right here in Kuala Lumpur.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023

Ladies and gentlemen,

5. Let me share with you what IGEM 2023 has delivered. I am pleased to announce that **IGEM 2023 saw a record RM11.17 billion in business leads** resulting from over eight MoUs, Mols and other international and inter-industry agreements.
6. IGEM 2023 also attracted over **500 exhibition booths**, which covered the entire ground floor of the KL Convention Centre. Over the three days, **there were more than 55,000 visitors from over 69 countries**.

7. Furthermore, we organised over 20 conferences, dialogues, and panel discussions, ensuring that IGEM's legacy of being a nexus for knowledge endures. From my informal conversations with some speakers and attendees, they were very impressed and eager to return for future IGEMs. This is concrete proof that IGEM 2023 was a grand success. Let's give a round of applause for everyone who made this possible.
8. Right after IGEM 2023, my Ministry led the plan and path to the **UNFCCC COP28 in Dubai**, where 17 MOUs and partnerships were sealed at Malaysia's Pavilion, unlocking close to **RM50 billion in business collaborations**. The Pavilion also featured 138 international and Malaysian speakers addressing 60 talks in just two weeks. I am also proud that Malaysia was a force to reckon with at COP28 – possibly small but definitely mighty.
9. The main outcome of the COP28 was the **UAE Consensus**, which stressed a commitment to transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems in a just, orderly, and equitable manner in this critical decade. Like it or not, we must prepare for the transitions that it will invariably spark. We do not want our workers to lose their livelihoods or for Malaysian companies to be shut out of key export markets, but rather, be at the forefront of the green economy.
10. Considering those scenarios, the Ministry has initiated the development of a Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Roadmap and Long Term-Low Emissions Development Strategies (LT-LEDS).

This strategic framework charts our course towards becoming a net-zero nation, addressing critical sectors, including energy, agriculture, waste, Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF), and Industrial Processes, and Product Use (IPPU).

IGEM 2024

Ladies and gentlemen,

11. We are in a formidable position to embark on preparations for IGEM 2024. Highlighting the concerted efforts of all parties in reaching net zero, the theme for IGEM 2024 is ***Race Towards Net Zero: Regional Leadership for Climate Urgency***, targeting **RM4.8 billion in business leads, 480 exhibition booths, 48,000 visitors** and the **participation of 48 countries**. This year is also special because we will mark the 15th anniversary of IGEM.
12. This year, we are taking a strategic approach by organising the entire event based on **empowering cities, electrifying mobility, decarbonising energy, accelerating circularity** and **protecting biodiversity**. As new attractions to mark the 15th anniversary, we have planned a dedicated industry zone for hydrogen and other carbon technologies and a central zone showcasing integrated partner innovation from leading global companies. For the first time, we will also have Central Energy Transition Asia (CETA), which will showcase global innovation pavilions.

13. Yet another first will be the multi-venue connected autonomous shared electric mobility future exhibition. Over and above these, we will also be hosting the circular economy showcase for the first time, which will bring together key leaders in innovative practices, technologies, and businesses. The showcases will include Sustainable Forest Management by Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), the Forestry 100 Million Tree Planting Pledge, the Launch of the Malaysia Pavilion at COP29, and the Department of Minerals and Geosciences Conference, among others.
14. We are also pushing the boundaries of our influence to develop IGEM's footprint in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa through industry-curated leadership roundtables, summits and congresses. This showcase will hugely accelerate the business avenues for all IGEM participants.

CALL TO ACTION FOR IGEM 2024

Ladies and gentlemen,

15. Given the many exciting avenues and opportunities for businesses to leverage, I urge companies as well as financial institutions to consider becoming sponsors for IGEM 2024 – to help uphold as well as accelerate Malaysia's regional leadership in green technology and climate change.
16. With the vast opportunities at IGEM 2024, I also strongly encourage industry associations and corporations to sign up as participants today.

On behalf of NRES, I earnestly hope for the cooperation from our colleagues in the other ministries and state governments, to participate and showcase their green initiatives to a broader audience.

17. With all the new initiatives and participation from all parties, IGEM 2024 will be a gateway to strengthening sustainability in our country and the region, providing Malaysia with momentum going into the COP 29 at Baku, Azerbaijan and Expo 2025 Osaka, Japan.
18. Furthermore, I am immensely pleased to inform you that our Prime Minister, Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, has been invited to officiate IGEM 2024. So, there is every reason for us to participate at IGEM 2024 and turbocharge our green commitments.

CONCLUSION

19. To conclude, I wish to reiterate the urgency of climate action as new climate challenges require a completely new mindset and action plans. The relevance of IGEM 2024 in addressing this will be more significant than ever. As such, I urge all loyal IGEM exhibitors, sponsors, speakers, participants, and visitors to do their part to ensure the event's continued success.
20. Above all, let us all remember that IGEM 2024 means business – for individuals, corporations and nations – as we move the needle to achieve our net zero aspiration. With a clear purpose and a heightened sense of urgency, IGEM 2024 is the place to be – to secure our place in the green economy and play a decisive role in climate action.
Thank you.