

PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PIKOM Welcomes Malaysia's Leadership in Championing ASEAN's Digital Future

KUALA LUMPUR, 22 January 2025 – PIKOM, the National Tech Association of Malaysia, expresses its strong support for the recent announcement by YB Gobind Singh Deo, Minister of Digital, regarding Malaysia's leadership role in championing five key projects at the 5th ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting (ADGMIN). These initiatives, set to drive ASEAN's digital transformation in 2025, align with PIKOM's vision of fostering innovation, economic growth, and sustainability in Malaysia's digital economy.

PIKOM Chairman Alex Liew stated, "Malaysia's proactive stance in driving these strategic initiatives is commendable and positions our nation as a digital leader in the ASEAN region. PIKOM is committed to supporting these efforts through industry engagement and knowledge-sharing initiatives that contribute to the responsible and sustainable growth of the digital sector."

Alignment with PIKOM's Initiatives

The five projects Malaysia will champion are also aligned with PIKOM's initiatives and chapters within its umbrella. PIKOM's Cybersecurity Chapter actively advocates for a resilient and secure digital landscape, while its Digital Infra Chapter champions the 5G and data centre development in the country and actively contributes to the energy efficiency dialogue with the Energy Commission. Additionally, building a relevant talent pool and addressing skills gaps to meet the country's needs aligns with PIKOM Academy, an initiative within PIKOM that focuses on talent development and upskilling to support Malaysia's digital transformation agenda.

The Five Projects Malaysia Will Champion in 2025:

- 1. Championing the Safe Deployment of AI in Southeast Asia**
Malaysia is leading the declaration on the establishment of an ASEAN AI Safety Network (ASEAN AI Safe), a platform dedicated to AI safety research, fostering responsible AI adoption, and promoting interoperability across ASEAN Member States.
- 2. Sustainable Data Centre Development**
The "ASEAN Guide for Sustainable Data Centre Development" will serve as a comprehensive framework for policymakers to build a data centre industry that balances economic growth with environmental responsibility.
- 3. Cross-Border Cloud Computing Framework**
The development of a framework for cloud data governance is a critical step towards ensuring seamless and secure data flows across ASEAN.
- 4. Developing the 5G Workforce**
Malaysia's initiative to develop specialized courses and training programs for reskilling and certifying professionals in the 5G sector is essential for the region's digital infrastructure.
- 5. Development of ASEAN Cybersecurity Cooperation Strategy**
Ensuring a resilient and secure ASEAN cyberspace is paramount. Malaysia's leadership in developing the ASEAN Cyber Cooperation Strategy 2026-2030 will enhance regional collaboration and information sharing to combat evolving cyber threats.

Commitment to Collaboration and Growth

As the voice of the tech industry, PIKOM remains committed to working closely with policymakers and industry stakeholders to ensure the successful implementation of these projects. Through its various chapters and thought leadership platforms, PIKOM will continue fostering dialogue on critical issues such as AI ethics, data governance, cybersecurity, and ESG in the digital sector. PIKOM published the AI Ethics Policy Paper in 2024 which may serve as a reference.

<https://pikom.org.my/research-white-paper/>

PIKOM also welcomes the focus on accelerating regional economic growth through the conclusion of negotiations on the Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA). The industry looks forward to the significant economic benefits DEFA will bring, further enhancing ASEAN's position in the global digital economy. Currently, PIKOM representatives serve as chairman of the World Innovation, Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA) and the Asian Oceanian Computing Industry Organisation (ASOCIO), which we may leverage to further the development of digital trade.

"We invite the industry to actively engage with us in these efforts, sharing valuable feedback that will support growth and good governance in the digital economy," added the PIKOM Chairman.

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About PIKOM

PIKOM, The National Tech Association of Malaysia is an association formed in 1986, representing the digital technology (TECH) industry in Malaysia. Its membership currently stands at more than 1,000 active companies involved in a whole spectrum of digital TECH products and services which command more than 80% of the National Digital Economy.

For more information, visit www.pikom.org.my

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