



KEYNOTE ADDRESS

BY

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MINISTER OF TRANSPORT**

FOR

**HIGH TEA RECEPTION IN CONJUNCTION WITH MALAYSIA'S
CANDIDATURE FOR INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION
ORGANIZATION (ICAO) COUNCIL AND INTERNATIONAL MARITIME
ORGANIZATION (IMO) COUNCIL**

5th AUGUST 2025 (TUESDAY) | 1600 HRS

FOUR SEASONS HOTEL

Thank you, Master of Ceremony.

Y.E. Datuk Haji Hasbi bin Haji Habibollah

Deputy Minister of Transport,

Mr. Jana,

Secretary General, Ministry of Transport,

Ms. Normah Osman,

Deputy Secretary General (Policy), Ministry of Transport,

**High Commissioners, Ambassadors, Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.**

1. Firstly, let me begin by welcoming everyone - “Selamat Datang” and Welcome. On behalf of the Government of Malaysia, it is both an honour and a pleasure to host this high tea reception in conjunction with Malaysia’s candidature for re-election to the Councils of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and the International Maritime Organisation (IMO).

2. We are truly grateful for your presence here today, which reflects the enduring partnerships and mutual aspirations we share across borders, sectors and oceans.

3. Malaysia remains a steadfast and constructive partner within both ICAO and IMO, fully aligned with their respective missions to uphold a safe, secure and sustainable global transport system. We place high priority on adherence to international standards and recommended practices and will continue to actively participate in the development and adoption of new frameworks that contribute to the evolution of global aviation and maritime governance.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Malaysia's Aviation Leadership and ICAO Commitment

4. Malaysia's aviation sector continues to demonstrate strong resilience and leadership. In 2025, passenger traffic is projected to grow between 8.4 to 15.6 percent year-on-year, reaching between 105.8 and 112.9 million passengers. This anticipated growth underscores our sector's vital role in connecting people, economies, and cultures across the globe.

5. The cargo segment is also showing strong momentum, with projected growth of 4.5 to 8.5 percent, supported by the recovery of global trade and the continued rise of e-commerce. These

developments reinforce Malaysia's positioning as a key aviation hub in the region.

6. As a member of the ICAO Council, Malaysia has consistently advocated for regulatory excellence. Through the Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia (CAAM), we have actively maintained ICAO's Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs), while pursuing institutional reforms aimed at improving oversight in aviation safety, security, and skilled human capital development.

7. Under institutional reform, I am pleased to inform that effective 1st August 2025, MAVCOM's regulatory and economic functions have been assumed by CAAM. This is to drive the growth of the aviation industry towards a progressive and sustainable future, supporting Malaysia's goal of becoming a regional aviation hub.

8. For safety oversight processes, one of our key initiatives is digitalisation. This transformation is to enhance operational efficiency, real-time risk monitoring, and data accuracy - equipping CAAM with robust capabilities to perform surveillance, analyse safety trends, and proactively address emerging challenges.

9. Aligned with ICAO's "No Country Left Behind" initiative, Malaysia remains deeply committed to supporting States in need. We contribute annually to ICAO's voluntary funds, focusing on aviation security, facilitation, cybersecurity, gender equality, and the delivery of Implementation Packages (iPacks), aligning strongly with ICAO's Strategic Plan 2026–2050.

10. Furthermore, Malaysia has initiated the establishment of the ICAO Asia and Pacific Capacity Development Fund. Through CAAM, we have pledged to contribute to this fund to further strengthen technical assistance and capacity-building programs across the Asia-Pacific region. This demonstrates Malaysia's commitment to ensuring that no State is left behind in advancing aviation safety, security, and sustainable development.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Malaysia's Maritime Commitment

11. Maritime transport remains the main artery of global trade, supported by intricate networks of shipping routes, ports and maritime chokepoints that have enabled globalisation and strengthened the interconnectedness of the world economy.

12. However, in 2025, the shipping sector faces a complex interplay of challenges from geopolitical tensions and

decarbonization demands to cybersecurity threats evolving regulatory landscapes and workforce shortages. These factors are impacting shipping routes, increasing costs, and exposing supply chain vulnerabilities while requiring rapid adaptation to new technologies.

13. UNCTAD forecasts that global maritime trade will grow at an average annual rate of only 2.4 per cent between 2025 and 2029, compared to 3.9 per cent between 2023 and 2024.

14. Safeguarding maritime lifelines therefore requires more than operational efficiency. It demands international cooperation, strategic foresight, and resilience planning to ensure that the arteries of global trade remain open, secure and efficient.

15. In this context, the Ministry of Transport is currently embarking on a multifaceted policy approach, which is essential to address these challenges and harness opportunities, for Malaysia to remain a trusted and strategic maritime nation. Starting this year, the key initiatives currently underway are as follows:

(i) Enhancing supply chain resilience through strategic infrastructure investment.

Malaysia continues to maintain its position as a leading maritime hub with Port Klang and the Port of Tanjung Pelepas consistently ranking among the world's busiest seaports. Building on this strength, Malaysia will develop 3rd port in Carey Island in Port Klang, with a planned handling capacity of 60 million TEUs. This landmark project will significantly expand our national port capacity, strengthen Malaysia's role in international trade and serve the global maritime community.

(ii) Strengthening international cooperation, implementing sustainable practices, and investing in green technologies.

While maritime transport moves over 80% of the world's goods, it also contributes significantly to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, oil spills and marine pollution. Malaysia is taking proactive measures to transform the sector into a greener, more sustainable industry. This includes simplifying MARPOL compliance, offering incentives for green technologies, and promoting investment in environmentally friendly infrastructure.

Malaysia is also working with our foreign partners to enhance Malaysia's maritime green initiatives. Through the Partnerships for Infrastructure (P4i) with the Australian Government, Malaysia is exploring opportunities for green bunkering and related infrastructure, accelerating decarbonisation efforts and positioning Malaysia as a regional leader in sustainable maritime practices.

(iii) Institutional reformation.

Under the Malaysia Maritime Law Reform Committee (MLRRC), the Government is modernising outdated maritime legislation to align with international best practices in the global shipping and port sectors and support Malaysia's role as a competitive maritime trading nation. These reforms aim to create a clear, efficient and reliable legal framework for shipping and admiralty practices, benefiting both domestic and international stakeholders.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen
Malaysia's Pledge to the Council and the World

16. Malaysia's candidature to the ICAO Council for the 2025-2028 term and IMO Council for the 2026–2027 term is not merely a quest for a seat. It is a reaffirmation of our long-standing commitment to global cooperation, sustainability and inclusive development. Our pledge is anchored on two core pillars: sustainability and capacity-building.

Pillar 1: Sustainability – A Common but Differentiated Journey

17. In the aviation sector, Malaysia fully supports ICAO's Long-Term Aspirational Goal (LTAG) of achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. We have launched the Malaysia Aviation Decarbonisation Blueprint (MADB), which outlines our strategies for emissions reduction across the value chain. As ICAO Council member, we pledge to actively driving the promotion of the the advancement and implementation of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) via collaborative efforts across various sectors, while creating a regulatory framework that encourages innovation to aid in certification, investment, and market uptake. These initiatives are bolstered by regional collaboration and knowledge exchange to enhance a sustainable and future-prepared aviation industry.

18. The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) has selected a theme, "Our Ocean, Our Obligation, Our Opportunity", as the

World Maritime Day theme for 2025. Therefore, Malaysia believes that prioritising environmental sustainability with the UN Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 2030) will build a strong foundation for sustainable shipping while responding to the global climate crisis.

19. In line with the IMO's Revised Strategy on the Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships, Malaysia is charting a clear decarbonisation pathway for the maritime sector. We are in the midst of preparing Malaysia Maritime Decarbonisation Strategy 2025–2050 journey, which will set out policy incentives, infrastructure plans, and phased compliance measures to support the transition towards low- and zero-carbon shipping.

20. Forging ahead, MOT, in collaboration with Petronas, MISC, MAERSK, and MASA, is also actively promoting alternative fuel sources such as Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), hydrogen, methanol and ammonia for marine vessels to reduce emissions and the carbon footprint from shipping activities.

Pillar 2: Capacity Building – Empowering a Skilled and Inclusive Transport Workforce

21. Sustainable transport is impossible without skilled people. Malaysia strongly believes in empowering human capital, especially through capacity building and technical assistance.

22. As a testament to Malaysia's support of ICAO's 'No Country Left Behind' and 'Next Generation of Aviation Personnel' initiatives, Malaysia has signed agreements with civil aviation commissions in Europe, Africa, Latin America, Arab and Caribbean states to strengthen, promote, and develop through mutual co-operation in the field of training for aviation personnel.

23. Malaysia's Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) has trained over 400 aviation personnel globally through the ICAO-accredited Malaysia Aviation Academy (MAVA). The Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia (CAAM), Malaysia Airports Holdings Berhad (MAHB), AirAsia (AA) and Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG) offer a wide range of training programmes both online and on-site to all ICAO Member States. These include English Language Proficiency (ELP) courses, Search and Rescue (SAR) training, aviation security crisis management, national instructors' course, dangerous goods, aviation health and air cargo operations.

24. In the maritime sector, through the IMO's Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP), Malaysia actively

supports regional capacity-building, including port management training, workshops on digitalisation and decarbonisation and collaborative knowledge exchange.

25. Under the IMO's ITCP, Malaysia has trained over 700 participants from 75 countries in areas such as GHG mitigation, Port State Control, Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) and leadership under the IMO Gender Programme. Malaysia also actively supports IMO's institutions, including WMU and IMLI, and contributes to capacity building in developing countries.

26. As an IMO Council Member, Malaysia is ready to do more by expanding technical training opportunities particularly for Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), championing inclusive knowledge exchange across regions and generations, and promoting diversity and gender equality by empowering women, youth, and underrepresented communities in both the aviation and maritime sectors.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

Malaysia's Re-Election to the ICAO and IMO Councils

27. Malaysia has been a proud Member State of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) since 1958, and

of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) since 1971. Over the years, we have demonstrated our unwavering support and active participation in both organisations, contributing meaningfully to their goals and mandates.

28. Malaysia has taken on an active role in the Council of ICAO since we were first elected in 2007. We wish to continue our active participation and contribute more to international civil aviation through the Council of ICAO in jointly shaping the future of aviation. We will continue our support for ICAO on compliance, standards, collaboration and raising awareness. We will make contributions and share our expertise.

29. At the IMO, Malaysia has long been an advocate of safe, secure and sustainable shipping. We have worked closely with fellow Member States to uphold a rules-based maritime order and strengthen cooperation, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region. Malaysia has also contributed actively to technical cooperation programmes, policy dialogue and legal harmonisation efforts within the IMO framework.

30. On this note, Malaysia is seeking re-election to the Council of ICAO at this upcoming 42nd ICAO Triennial Assembly in September 2025 for Part III and to the IMO Council during the 34th IMO Assembly in November 2025 for Category C.

31. We humbly seek the continued support of all Member States, particularly Your Excellencies representing foreign missions in Malaysia, for our candidature. With your endorsement, Malaysia stands ready to continue serving the global aviation and maritime communities with integrity, inclusivity and shared purpose.

Closing

32. Last but not least, thank you for being with us this evening. We hope you will enjoy the reception. Thank you, terima kasih and Bon Appetit.

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