

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
YB LOKE SIEW FOOK
MINISTER OF TRANSPORT, MALAYSIA
ASEAN PORTS & LOGISTICS 2026

8 July 2026

Distinguished guests,

Industry leaders,

Representatives of port authorities, shipping lines, logistics providers, investors and members of the maritime community,

Members of media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Salam Sejahtera, Salam Malaysia MADANI and a very good morning to all of you.

1. It is indeed a great pleasure and honour to join all of you at the Opening Ceremony of the ASEAN Ports & Logistics Exhibition and Conference 2026.

2. Your presence here reflects our shared commitment to strengthening regional connectivity and advancing the future of the maritime, ports and logistics industry.
3. The return of this prestigious event to Kuala Lumpur is both timely and significant. Today, the global maritime industry is navigating an increasingly complex landscape shaped by geopolitical uncertainties, evolving trade patterns, rapid technological advancement and the global transition towards sustainability. These developments present undeniable challenges, but they also create new opportunities for countries and regions that are prepared to innovate and collaborate.
4. Against this backdrop, platforms such as ASEAN Ports & Logistics provide an important opportunity for governments, industry leaders and stakeholders to exchange ideas, strengthen partnerships and collectively shape the future of our region.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. The maritime industry has always been about connecting people, markets and economies. Today, it is also about adopting innovation, technology and smart partnerships.
6. No nation can address today's supply chain challenges alone. The resilience of our region depends not only on the strength of our individual ports or nations but also on our collective ability to work together as an integrated ASEAN maritime community.
7. ASEAN continues to emerge as one of the world's most dynamic economic regions, supported by strong manufacturing capabilities, growing foreign direct investment and deeper regional economic integration.
8. For Malaysia, ASEAN remains our most important regional trading partner. In 2025, Malaysia's total trade with ASEAN reached a record RM777.61 billion, accounting for approximately 25.4 per cent of the nation's total trade, while exports to ASEAN recorded an all-time high of RM457.62 billion.

9. Malaysia remains committed to supporting this shared aspiration by developing our ports as strategic logistics hubs connecting ASEAN with the global economy.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

10. More than 90 per cent of Malaysia's international trade is transported by sea, making our ports indispensable drivers of economic growth and regional connectivity.
11. Located along the Straits of Malacca, one of the world's busiest shipping lanes, Malaysia remains firmly committed to ensuring that this vital international waterway continues to be safe, secure and open for global navigation.
12. In 2025, Malaysian ports collectively handled approximately 33.07 million TEUs. Port Klang achieved another historic milestone by recording 15.14 million TEUs, securing its position among the Top 10 busiest container ports in the world for the 2nd year running, while the Port of Tanjung Pelepas handled 14.03 million TEUs, becoming the first single container terminal in Malaysia to surpass the 14-million TEU

mark. Until May 2026, Port Klang has achieved a volume growth of 5% against the corresponding period in 2025 while PTP grew 8% during the same period.

13. These achievements did not happen by chance. They reflect long-term investments in infrastructure, progressive transport policies and strong collaboration between the Government, port authorities, terminal operators, shipping lines and logistics industry stakeholders.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

14. Connectivity is the foundation of economic integration. Recognising future trade growth, Malaysia continues to invest strategically in infrastructure that strengthens domestic and regional connectivity and supports more efficient supply chains.

15. One of our most transformative initiatives is the East Coast Rail Link (ECRL), which is expected to commence its passenger operations beginning in 2027 while cargo services are expected to commence early 2028. This connectivity between the east and west coast of Peninsular Malaysia

augurs well for efficient and expeditious flow of passengers and cargo besides providing vast opportunities for new economic activities in the east coast states of Kelantan, Terengganu and Pahang.

16. Beyond its national significance, the ECRL will strengthen ASEAN's multimodal transport network by improving land-sea connectivity, facilitating cross-border trade and enhancing supply chain resilience especially between ports in China and Kuantan Port.

17. Complementing this initiative, Malaysia continues to modernise and expand its port infrastructure through strategic developments at Port Klang, the Port of Tanjung Pelepas and Kuantan New Deep-Water Terminal Phase 2. These investments will enhance capacity, improve operational efficiency and support future regional trade growth.

18. Among these developments are the ongoing expansion of Westports Phase 2 and the proposed Carey Island Port project which represent strategic long-term investments to support future trade growth, strengthen supply chain

resilience and ensure sufficient capacity to accommodate the next generation of maritime trade incorporating smart and green technologies to achieve greater efficiency and sustainability.

19. In addition, the government through the Ministry of Transport is also improving the existing rail infrastructure to promote the modal shift of domestic and cross border cargo from road to rail which not only reduces congestion on the roads but also improves road safety and reduce carbon emissions towards greater sustainability of the logistics industry.

20. Two weeks ago, I officiated the reopening of the Segamat Inland Port, a rail cargo hub which was developed by Port Klang Authority some 30 years ago but never really took off due to a lack of coordination and confidence amongst the logistics players despite the presence of many industries in the vicinity of Segamat. With the recently completed double tracking project between Gemas and Johor Bahru and the introduction of new locomotives and higher carrying capacity of cargo wagons plus a targeted marketing strategy by the new operator, the facility holds much promise and potential

to bring about positive changes to the logistics industry and boost the economy of Northern Johor.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

21.While physical infrastructure remains important, the future competitiveness of ports will increasingly be determined by digital connectivity. Malaysia has taken significant strides through the successful implementation of the Malaysia Maritime Single Window (MMSW), which has transformed vessel clearance processes through a single digital platform that enables seamless information sharing among government agencies and maritime stakeholders.

22.Building upon this success, we are now advancing towards Phase Two of the MMSW, expanding digital integration across cargo-related processes, port services, regulatory approvals and electronic payment capabilities to create a more efficient and interconnected maritime ecosystem.

23.Our long-term vision is to establish a fully integrated Port Community System that connects ports, shipping lines and

the logistics industry through a trusted digital platform to improve efficiency, transparency and competitiveness.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

24. Before I conclude, I would also like to extend a warm invitation to all industry players and stakeholders gathered here today to participate in Transport Expo Asia 2026, which will be held from 20 to 22 October 2026 in Kuala Lumpur.

25. I look forward to welcoming all of you once again as we continue to strengthen collaboration and shape the future of transportation in our region.

26. On that note, it gives me great pleasure to officially declare the ASEAN Ports & Logistics Exhibition and Conference 2026 open.

Thank you.