



KEYNOTE SPEECH

BY

**YB DATUK HAJI HASBI BIN HAJI HABIBOLLAH
DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT**

FOR

MALAYSIA MARITIME WEEK 2025

**16th JULY 2025 (WEDNESDAY) | 0930 HRS
SUNWAY RESORT HOTEL**

Assalamu'alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh,
Salam Sejahtera and a very good morning,

Mr. Arsenio Dominguez,

Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization,

Distinguished speakers, Ladies and gentlemen,

1. It is both an honour and a pleasure for me to deliver this keynote address and to welcome all of you to the Maritime Conference held in conjunction with Malaysia Maritime Week 2025.
2. This year's theme, **"Our Ocean, Our Obligation, Our Opportunity"**, is both profound and timely. It reminds us that the ocean is not merely a geographic or economic domain, but a shared responsibility. It is our obligation to steward it wisely and it is also our opportunity to harness its vast potential for sustainable growth.
3. Malaysia's maritime industry remains a cornerstone of national development. Over **98% of Malaysia's trade by volume**, and around **80% by value**, is transported via maritime routes. In 2024, our **maritime trade throughput exceeded 778 million tonnes**, positioning us among the **top 20 container ports globally**.
4. With the Straits of Malacca accommodating over **80,000 vessel movements annually**, our geographic positioning is strategic but

so too is our obligation to ensure navigational safety, maritime security, and environmental protection.

Ladies and gentlemen,

5. The Government, through the Ministry of Transport, has taken strategic steps to strengthen our maritime governance framework. One of the most critical among them is the establishment of the **Malaysia Maritime Law Revision and Reform Committee (MLRRC)**. This committee has been tasked to review and modernise our maritime legal landscape, ensuring alignment with international standards and best practices.
6. In line with this, we are expediting the **finalisation and gazettelement of subsidiary legislation under the Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Act 2017 (Act A1551)**. This will allow full enforcement of the Act, supporting Malaysia's compliance with international safety, environmental and operational benchmarks.
7. Further anchoring our strategic direction is the development of the **Malaysia Maritime Master Plan 2026–2040**. This forward-looking blueprint will strengthen the domestic shipping sector, improve service quality, and increase the sector's contribution to the national GDP.

8. The **Maritime Shipping Industry Board (MSIB)**, established under the Ministry, is playing a pivotal role in policy integration and stakeholder coordination. Together with instruments like the **National Marine Spatial Plan (MSP)**, we aim to achieve a careful balance between economic utilisation and marine conservation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

9. We also recognise that policy alone is not enough. The future of the maritime sector depends on innovation, technology and talent. The Ministry is therefore committed to:
 - (i) Advancing digitalisation through the Malaysia Maritime Single Window;
 - (ii) Strengthening TVET and training for seafarers; and
 - (iii) Encouraging the adoption of smart port systems and green technologies.
10. We are proud that Malaysia has exceeded the global average in women's participation in the maritime public sector. But more needs to be done. Associations like MyWIMA (Women in Maritime Association Malaysia) are instrumental in this regard. We stand ready to support their efforts to **uplift the role of women across the maritime value chain.**

11. Internationally, **Malaysia reaffirms its commitment to the IMO's Greenhouse Gas Strategy 2023**, aiming for net-zero emissions from shipping by 2050. We are working closely with like-minded partners, including Australia, to develop regional decarbonisation hubs. As an IMO Council Member, Malaysia will continue to advocate for diversity, equity and inclusion in the global maritime arena.

Ladies and gentlemen,

12. Today's conference brings together thought leaders and changemakers from across the industry. The topics that will be discussed from technological transformation to sustainable progress, from gender equity to climate action, reflect the urgency and diversity of the issues we face.
13. I encourage all participants to engage openly, share boldly and collaborate sincerely. Let us co-create solutions that not only serve Malaysia's interests but uplift the broader maritime community in ASEAN and beyond.
14. In closing, allow me to reaffirm the Ministry of Transport's commitment to steering the maritime industry forward with clarity of vision, policy integration and strong industry partnership.

15. Let us move together for our ocean, for our obligation and for our shared opportunity.

Thank you.

Wassalamu'alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.