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# PM calls for new roadmap to beat energy crisis

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi called yesterday on the oil and gas industry to begin charting a new strategic roadmap to tackle the global energy crisis.

He said new solutions may include breakthrough technologies and processes, advanced research and development, new forms of alliances and partnerships.

"As we continue to grapple with the intractable issues facing us, we must recognise that the solution lies not in piecemeal tweaks and changes. This can bring about secure, safe and efficient supply of energy that will improve our lives in ways that are environment-friendly," he said after delivering his keynote address at the 13th Annual Asia Oil and Gas Conference here.

Abdullah said such solutions may

be truly novel and indeed may lie outside the boundaries of present knowledge but must be sought for the very survival of the energy industry as there will come a day when fossil fuel reserves will be used up.

He said the new reality in energy industry posed a two-pronged challenge – how to minimise emissions using fossil fuel and accelerating the introduction of new technologies that can reduce dependencies on fossil fuels.

He said this is now the time to execute urgent action plans to save the environment and the oil and gas industry must become a comprehensive part of that solution.

Abdullah also shared with the 1,500-odd audience the government's decision to restructure fuel subsidies.

"After much deliberation and careful consideration, it was clear to us that maintaining fuel subsidies

at prevailing levels was no longer tenable. The decision was indeed very painful but necessary. In all honesty, it was a difficult and agonising decision to make. Many times we have been tempted to walk away from such a difficult decision," he said.

"I would like to assure all Malaysians that the government is fully aware of the increased hardship that they now face and that we will do everything within our power to alleviate the people's burden. Plans are being put into motion to help share the burden of rising prices."

He said the subsidy restructuring is for the long-term viability of the economy but the government will never forget its responsibility to the people.  
– Bernama