



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking at the opening of the Asean AI Malaysia Summit 2025 in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

DRIVING INNOVATION

PM: ASEAN MUST UNITE TO SHAPE ETHICAL AI

It must reflect region's culture, diversity and values, says Anwar

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ASEAN nations must unite in shaping artificial intelligence that reflects the region's shared culture, diversity and values, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said the 700 million-strong bloc is uniquely positioned to develop AI that is not only advanced, but also inclusive, ethical and rooted in Southeast Asian traditions.

"With our extraordinary diversity of cultures and languages, Asean has a generational opportunity to lead in shaping AI that bridges development divides, empowers small businesses, uplifts rural communities, strengthens public services, and expands access to healthcare, education and justice for all," he said.

He was speaking at the opening ceremony of the Asean AI Malaysia Summit 2025, here yesterday.

Anwar said the region must be "bold and principled" in ensur-

ing AI serves the public good, adding that success should be measured not by technological sophistication, but by its ability to meaningfully improve lives in a sustainable and just way.

He said Malaysia's own efforts, under its recently launched AI Nation Framework, would ensure AI becomes "a force for all", driving innovation, better governance and improved quality of life nationwide.

The framework, he added, would ensure AI benefited "every Malaysian in every corner of the country" through five pillars: forward-looking policies, a digitally skilled workforce, secure and reliable infrastructure, advancement of digital trust, and strategic investments via public-private partnerships and global collaboration.

Anwar said the framework was "more than a roadmap" as "it is a movement" to ensure AI benefited "every Malaysian in every corner of the country" and serves the wider Southeast Asian community.

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Anwar said the nation stood at "a defining crossroads" in harnessing technology to shape its economic future, identity, public trust and moral compass.

"Our vision is not only to harness AI just to catch up with the rest of the world, but to lead in some areas, to protect our values, to give meaning to the principle of equity and justice," he said.

The two-day summit at the Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre here was organised by the Digital Ministry and attended by Minister Gobind Singh Deo, Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Shamsul Azri Bakar, Asean secretary-general Dr Kao Kim Hourn and Asean delegates, alongside global experts and industry players.

The event also marked the launch of Malaysia's sovereign AI platform, ILMU 1.0 — short for Intellect Luhur Malaysia Untukmu (Excellent Malaysian Intelligence for You) — a homegrown large language model (LLM) developed by YTL AI Labs.

Built to understand and process text, voice and images, it places strong emphasis on local context, ethics and safety.

The first iteration, ILMU 0.1, was unveiled in December 2024 and outperformed leading global LLMs in Bahasa Melayu benchmarks, even passing Malaysia's PT3 and Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia national examinations with top grades.