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## TNB: AI reshaping energy system

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**IMPROVING LIVES**

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Artificial intelligence (AI) has been instrumental in driving a system-wide transformation in the energy industry, said Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) president and chief executive officer Datuk Shamsul Ahmad yesterday.

He said the energy transition is entering a more demanding phase, requiring large-scale execution amid legacy infrastructure and financial constraints.

"We are rapidly deploying renewable energy but need to do so while balancing cost considerations for consumers and energy security for the country.

"Against this backdrop, AI-augmented systems are helping us integrate a higher share of renewables, optimise grid and asset management, and unlock energy efficiency at scale," he said in his welcome address at the TNB Energy Transition Conference here.

Shamsul said TNB's digitalisation journey began more than a decade ago, with the company committing in 2015 to modernise Malaysia's national grid into what it envisioned as the "Grid of the Future".

He said TNB has continued to pursue its digital transformation strategy while upgrading its internal digital architecture to better serve the market and customers.

"Today, we are advancing our efforts by leveraging AI as a transformative enabler."

Commenting on the conference, Shamsul said this year's theme, "Energy & AI: The Synergy for Energy Transition", was chosen to reflect the defining technology of this era.

He said the conference is anchored on three pillars.

The first, Energy for AI, focuses on the growing energy demands of data centres, edge computing and the broader infrastructure that enables intelligent systems.

"As AI systems scale, so too does their appetite for power," he said, adding that the pillar highlights the need to fuel the next generation of AI with sustainable energy.

The second pillar, AI for Energy, explores how intelligence can boost energy infrastructure.

"We see how data influences the way our systems work, for example, the ability to anticipate demand on the grid before it overloads and detect faults before power outages occur," he said.

He added that discussions under this pillar will examine how data-driven intelligence can optimise energy systems.

The third pillar, Energy Transition for People, centres on ensuring that no community is left behind in the shift towards a more sustainable future.

"It means reskilling workers for new energy jobs, strengthening resilience in vulnerable regions, and making clean energy accessible and affordable for all.

"The transition must not only transform systems but also improve lives."

He said TNB sees itself as playing a central role in this journey.

As Malaysia's national utility, he said the company is entrusted with ensuring electricity remains reliable, accessible and secure for millions of households, businesses and industries nationwide.

In doing so, TNB remains guided by the principles of the energy trilemma as it balances energy security, affordability and sustainability while navigating the transition towards a sustainable future.

"At the same time, we recognise the urgency of the climate challenges ahead of us.

"We are investing in cleaner generation, expanding our renewable energy portfolio and reducing the carbon intensity of our operations.

"We are strengthening and modernising our grid to support greater integration of renewable energy while enhancing flexibility and resilience".

He said TNB recorded a system minutes interruption rate of just 0.15 minutes in 2025, outperforming the global benchmark of below 1.5 minutes.

He added that TNB's MSCI ESG rating was upgraded to AA in 2026 from A in 2025, in recognition of its sustainability efforts and governance standards.

*Tenaga Nasional Bhd president and chief executive officer Datuk Shamsul Ahmad says energy transition is entering a more demanding phase. NSTP PIC BY RAIHANA MANSOR*