



18 SEP, 2023

OPTIMISTIC ABOUT INDUSTRY SHIFT

The Edge, Malaysia



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"We decided that it would be important to bring together players and policymakers to discuss how we can deliver an accelerated but responsible energy transition," Tenaga Nasional Bhd president and CEO Datuk Baharin Din commented on the event's success in his closing remarks for the conference. "We knew that we could not do it alone and that this would require cross-sector and cross-border solutions."

Launched by Minister of Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad, the two-day event covered four broad topics — the Future of Energy, Green Mobility, Sustainable Cities and Digitalisation — which mirrored TNB's approach in crafting its net zero strategy.

The Energy Transition Conference 2023 was especially memorable as it saw the launch of Phase Two of the National Energy Transition Roadmap (NETR), which was officiated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim. Minister of Economy Rafizi Ramli was also present at the event.

In search of Malaysia's new growth areas, the NETR serves as a key pillar for the nation's upcoming economic transformation. And the launch, in conjunction with the conference, underlines the importance of such industry-wide dialogue.

The conference is "instrumental in expediting Malaysia's pursuit to lower its greenhouse gas emissions while reducing the country's reliance on carbon fuels to generate energy", the prime minister said during the launch of the NETR.

A total of 33 partner organisations across various sectors contributed to the success of the conference, including five diamond partners, namely automaker Auto Bavaria (Green Mobility), Industrial conglomerate Hyosung Corp (Future of Energy), digital infrastructure specialist K2 Strategic Pte Ltd (Data Infrastructure), Malaysian property giant Sunway Group (Sustainable Cities) and smart grid solutions provider Trilliant (Digitalisation).

Attendees and speakers ranged from policymakers and industry analysts to associations, international bodies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). They include International Renewable Energy Agency director-general Francesco La Camera, Energy Commission chairman Mohammed Rashdan Mohd Yusof and senior ministry and government agency officials from Malaysia, Indonesia, South Australia, the UK and Japan.

ACCELERATING A RESPONSIBLE ENERGY TRANSITION

28-29 AUGUST 2023

KUALA LUMPUR CONVENTION CENTRE

From left: TNB COO and Energy Transition chairman Datuk Ir Megat Jalaluddin Megat Hassan; TNB chairman Datuk Abdul Razak Abdul Majid; Minister of Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad; Deputy Minister of Higher Education Datuk Mohammad Yusof Apdal; and TNB CEO Datuk Indera Ir Baharin Din at the launch of the Energy Transition Conference 2023. Themed 'Accelerating a Responsible Energy Transition', the conference powered by TNB was a rousing success, marked by the attendance of more than 2,000 delegates and 68 speakers from around the world, who shared ideas on and lessons learnt from their own transition journeys.

Those who shared their views on navigating the industry landscape included Sunway Group founder Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah, who spoke on sustainable development; Trilliant Networks chairman Andrew C White, who talked about data usage in smart grid operations; and Microsoft Asia energy and sustainability director Jim Bullock, who shared his views on artificial intelligence.

Corporate leaders from various sectors — such as banking, oil and gas, conventional and renewable energy (RE) power plant operators, new energy solutions, players in the electric vehicle (EV) value chain, digital infrastructure, property development, transport and logistics, and enablers such as research and consultancy firms — attended the event.

The talks helped shed light on prevailing and new topics such as the future of energy models like hydrogen and nuclear. On the consumer side, the pathway for EV adoption and infrastructure rollout were also discussed.

Also highlighted were the importance of conventional systems like gas to support the energy transition and how to sustainably maintain these in the process, as well as how existing technologies can be used to improve grid system management — such as through vehicle-to-grid (V2G) operations and data-driven systems that stabilise demand and supply in an increasingly fragmented energy system.

Following the success of the inaugural Energy Transition Conference, TNB looks forward to hosting similar programmes in the upcoming years as the journey continues, said Baharin. "This is the first of many industry dialogues that will be necessary to push the industry forward, and TNB will continue to play its role and set the stage for future collaborations."