



22 OCT, 2026

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The Star, Malaysia



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PETALING JAYA: Research, innovation and industry collaboration took centre stage at Transport Expo Asia (TXA) 2026, with 17 partnerships sealed to strengthen the country's rail, road and maritime sectors.

The documents were exchanged in the presence of Transport Minister Anthony Loke (*pic*) at the Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre yesterday.



Loke said the ministry is also encouraging research and development (R&D) partnerships between industry and academia to help commercialise research outputs from local institutions.

He noted that many safety features in land transport were the direct result of R&D conducted by local universities.

Loke said various competitions are also being organised in conjunction with the expo, including a competition for university students to develop solutions to road safety issues, refine them and potentially commercialise them into market-ready products.

Among the partnerships were agreements between Keretapi Tanah Melayu Bhd and Japan's Keio Juuki Seibi Co Ltd on train maintenance and between Malaysia Rapid Transit System Sdn Bhd and Tenaga Nasional Bhd on solar energy and electric vehicle charging infrastructure.