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Charting the path forward

The Star, Malaysia



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For these sustainability leaders, the work never stops

By THO XIN YI
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Nor Fadhilah Mohd Ali
Chief Corporate Officer
Telekom Malaysia Bhd (TM)

At TM, we are guided by our Prosperity, Planet and People (3Ps) strategy in advancing our sustainability agenda. Our focus is on decarbonising responsibly on a clear pathway towards net zero by 2050, while enabling communities and businesses to grow sustainably alongside us.

This includes strengthening energy-efficient digital infrastructure, accelerating renewable energy adoption, and delivering green digital solutions that help customers and partners advance their ESG goals. We continue to expand digital inclusion for underserved communities through programmes such as Jangkau Digital TM and TM Future Skills, while cultivating sustainability-driven mindsets among employees. Recently, TM was recognised as a 3-Star Lister on the UNGCMYB ESG Select List 2025, reinforcing the meaningful impact of our sustainability efforts.

Ultimately, this reflects our greater purpose, ensuring the progress we drive today enables inclusive growth and a stronger digital future for Malaysia, in line with our aspiration to become a Digital Powerhouse by 2030.



Nor Azah Masrom
Operational Sustainability Head
Cypark Resources Bhd

SUSTAINABILITY shows no signs of slowing as we step into 2026, particularly for chief sustainability officers steering their companies' ESG strategies.

At the start of the new year, *StarESG* spoke with 10 sustainability leaders across sectors, from finance and renewable energy to telecommunication and water services, on their ESG priorities in 2026.

Driven by ambitious ESG goals, they are focused on accelerating change and embedding sustainability into business operations. They share a common purpose: leaving a tangible legacy for their companies and the planet, in whatever ways they can.

Here, they reflect on the achievements they are most proud of, the key industry trends they are watching closely and the focus areas that will shape their work in the year ahead.

As a renewable energy business, we work closely with natural capital, particularly the environment. Engagement with Orang Asal and local communities, alongside collaboration with government agencies, universities and non-governmental organisations, is central to how we create shared value and protect biodiversity.

On climate action, we are exploring carbon credit opportunities through methane capture and biomethane, while expanding waste-to-energy efforts as a circular economy solution to reduce land-fill dependence, recover resources and ensure zero toxic ash. We are also working towards zero-discharge practices and responsible water use, tracked through energy audits and digital tools.

Personally, I hope to nurture a shared sustainability culture where people internalise sustainability at work and in life, and experienced voices and younger talent learn from one another.



Shamala Mary Arokiasamy
Vice President,
Sustainability and Water Conservation
Section, Risk Management Department
Air Selangor

margins, diversified water sources and accelerated non-revenue water reduction enabled by digital and AI-driven solutions.

Our climate agenda is a long-term journey, guided by a comprehensive greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction roadmap covering Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions, anchored by our Net Zero Energy Vision 2040 for Scope 2. This journey is supported by continuous improvements in energy efficiency, renewable energy adoption, circular economy practices and robust GHG data governance.

Personally, I aspire to foster lasting behavioural change to reduce domestic water consumption, advance biodiversity initiatives that strengthen water security, and champion Air Selangor's ESG leadership through regional knowledge-sharing.



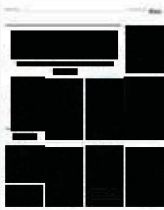
Prof Denny Ng Kok Sum
Dean of Faculty of Engineering and
Technology
Sunway University

As the world confronts an escalating climate emergency, decarbonisation has become a defining priority across all sectors, particularly the construction industry—one of the largest contributors to global carbon emissions.

In this context, Sunway University is developing its first net zero carbon building, which reflects its strong commitment to sustainable campus development and innovation. More than a structure, the building represents a commitment to sustainable development and climate leadership.

Envisioned as a living laboratory with close collaboration with industry partners, the seven-storey, 60,000 sq ft facility blends passive design strategies, AI-enabled energy management and low-carbon materials to reduce emissions, while serving as a dynamic hub for education, research and real-world innovation.

Sunway University is strengthening its sustainability agenda by aligning with Sunway Group's ESG targets, supporting a 45% reduction in carbon emission intensity by 2030 and increasing renewable energy use to 40% of total electricity consumption.



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Luanne Sieh
Group Chief Sustainability Officer
CIMB Group Holdings Bhd

In 2026, CIMB will focus on supporting our clients in their carbon transition while expanding our sustainability advisory, carbon finance and nature finance offerings.

A key priority is enabling small and medium enterprises (SMEs) through sector-specific workshops that will help them build a strong business case for sustainability improvements. We will also connect business leaders with reputable providers of decarbonisation solutions and incentivise progress through sustainability-linked financing tied to measurable targets.

The progressive mandatory implementation of IFRS S2 for listed companies will be a game-changer, driving greater visibility and action on sustainability. We hope businesses will not view this merely as a compliance exercise, but as an opportunity to enhance efficiency, improve market access and strengthen stakeholder trust while proactively managing medium- to long-term ESG-related financial risks.



John Teoh
Executive Director/Chief
Sustainability Officer
GDEX Bhd

While we aspire to be carbon neutral, high investment costs for green initiatives and data gaps in greenhouse gas emissions, particularly Scope 3, are major challenges. In 2026, GDEX is focusing on carbon reduction as a gradual transition toward net zero.

We plan to expand the use of green flyer bags (which contain recycled plastic) as public acceptance grows, and are developing sustainable procurement guidelines to manage ESG risks in the supply chain while supporting regulatory compliance.

We will continue to invest in AI and machine learning-powered cybersecurity to protect data privacy and security. We are also working towards ISO certifications on road and workplace safety. On talent development, we aim to produce more diploma graduates in courier operations via GDEX Academy.

Personally, I hope to see more attractive incentives for green initiatives, particularly solar panels; simplified, auditable reporting requirements; and lower electric vehicle ownership costs.



MAG's 2026 ESG priorities focus on advancing inclusive growth while accelerating aviation decarbonisation. Socially, we aim to strengthen gender diversity in technical roles, while developing structured inclusion programmes for Orang Asal and neurodivergent communities.

On climate action, Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) remains a critical decarbonisation lever. From 2025, MAG flights departing the UK and EU comply with a 2% SAF blending mandate, while flights departing Singapore in 2026 will be subject to a SAF levy. We also support Malaysia's proposed near-term 1% SAF blending target under the Aviation Decarbonisation Blueprint and National Energy Transition Roadmap.

Looking to the mid-term through 2035, MAG's goals include improving fuel efficiency and operational performance through fleet and flight-planning optimisation, airspace efficiency collaboration, contrail impact trials, cabin waste reduction, sustainable procurement, facility energy and water efficiency, and enhanced ESG data automation to strengthen governance and regulatory readiness.

Philip See
Group Chief Sustainability Officer
Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG)



2025, the group will prioritise consistent execution across key operating subsidiaries, with clearer accountability at the business unit level and regular reviews of progress against agreed targets.

From my observation, ESG discussions have increasingly shifted towards the pace and practicality of transition, particularly in relation to electric vehicle adoption. Recent moves by several countries to review or adjust timelines for banning internal combustion engine vehicles highlight the need for a more balanced and flexible approach to decarbonisation.

Looking ahead, I hope to see more affordable and accessible renewable energy options across markets, as this would support more practical and scalable decarbonisation efforts over time.

Giam Say Khoon
General Manager,
Corporate Communications &
Sustainability
Berjaya Corporation Bhd



Reflecting on Gamuda's 50-year journey, sustainability is central to our values and strategy.

In 2025, our intensified agenda yielded an MSCI AA rating, and a Science Based Target Initiative (SBTi) validation for net-zero targets—a first among Malaysian engineering and construction companies. Similarly, we are the first

Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) adopter in our sector. We also published the Group's first stand-alone sustainability report, the Gamuda 2025 ESG Impact Report.

Beyond operations, we contribute to the development and discussion of Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, Asean Taxonomy and ISSB Standards. We serve on Securities Commission Malaysia's Advisory Committee on Sustainability Reporting and participate in the TNFD pilot study with Bank Negara Malaysia and United Nations Development Programme.

Looking ahead, we will deepen climate action, integrating digital solutions for insights and resilience. On decarbonisation, Gamuda, with a renewable energy pipeline exceeding 3 gigawatts, is enabling broader access to clean, reliable energy across the region.

Onge Jee Lian
Group Chief Communications and
ESG Officer
Gamuda Bhd



Leo Pui Yong
Group Chief Sustainability Officer
Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB)

As TNB moves towards energy transition and net zero aspirations by 2050, sustainability is embedded across our core operations, guiding how we plan, operate and invest to ensure it serves as a primary driver of business value.

We have digitalised more than 400 sustainability indicators across 90,000 assets into a single integrated platform, enabling real-time monitoring and data-driven decision-making. This foundation underpins our 2026 goals toward effective and measurable execution of our sustainability strategies.

In 2026, we are advancing the adoption of ISSB standards under the National Sustainability Reporting Framework. Beyond regulatory compliance, prioritising sustainability opportunities and potential risks brings long-term value creation and protection for our stakeholders.

Central to this journey is our commitment to inclusivity. We are committed to upskilling our workforce and empowering our supply chain to ensure a just and equitable energy transition that benefits everyone.