



MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS



IRC 2026

INTERNATIONAL REGULATORY CONFERENCE

Shaping the Next Digital Era
Regulation, Resilience and Trust

21 – 22 July 2026

Shangri-La Kuala Lumpur





IRC 2026

INTERNATIONAL REGULATORY CONFERENCE

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The International Regulatory Conference (IRC) 2026, a continuity from previous years since 2024, hosted by the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC), is a global platform bringing together regulators, industry leaders and experts to explore the theme “Shaping the Next Digital Era: Regulation, Resilience and Trust”.

The focus will be on the digital economy and regulatory matters within the Communications and Multimedia (C&M) sector, positioning Malaysia as a leader in global telecommunications policy and reinforcing MCMC’s role in international regulatory discussions.

The IRC 2026 will explore the intersection of technology and regulation, with a focus on the challenges of regulating social media, balancing freedom of expression with national security and social responsibility.

Key issues such as data privacy, content moderation and digital governance will be addressed, shaping future global communication frameworks.



DAY 1

AGENDA

21 July 2026 (Tuesday)

8:30 am	Registration
9:30 am	Keynote Speaker Address for IRC 2026 Mr. Derek John Fernandez – Commission Member, MCMC Balancing Safety and Freedom: How Can We Protect Minors Online Without Stifling Their Digital Growth
10:00 am	Arrival of YB Dato’ Seri Fahmi Fadzil, Minister of Communications Official Launch of International Regulatory Conference 2026 (IRC 2026)
11:00 am	Tea Break
11:15 am	Dialogue 1: Online Safety by Design – Platform Accountability and Child Protection in an Age of User Vulnerability
12:45 pm	Lunch
2:00 pm	Dialogue 2: Sovereign Data, Empowered Citizens – Building Trust, Privacy and Consumer Rights in Malaysia’s Digital Future
3:00 pm	Dialogue 3: Regulatory Aspiration vs. Economic Reality – Contours of Policy Successes and Shortfalls
4:00 pm	Tea Break
4:15 pm	Dialogue 4: The Proliferation of Artificial Intelligence and the Humanities – Its Vulnerabilities, Capabilities and Interdisciplinary Landscape
5:15 pm	End

DAY 2

AGENDA

22 July 2026 (Wednesday)

8:30 am	Registration
9:15 am	Dialogue 5: Quantum Technology and Communication – Architecture and Innovation, A Forward Approach
10:30 am	Tea Break
10:45 am	Dialogue 6: Regulating the Robotics Revolution – A Cross-Sector Imperative
11:45 am	Dialogue 7: Digital Dependency and Human Autonomy – Mental Well-being, Knowledge Integrity and Boundaries in an Always-On Society
12:45 pm	Lunch
1:45 pm	Dialogue 8: Regional and Global Regulatory Collaboration
2:45 pm	Dialogue 9: Innovation Driven Autonomous Ecosystems and Industry Transformation
3:45 pm	Dialogue 10: Progressive Talent, Digital Skills and Future Workplace
4:45 pm	Closing Remarks by YB Teo Nie Ching, Deputy Minister of Communications
5:00 pm	Tea Break
5:15 pm	Conference Ends

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

ADDRESS FOR IRC 2026

Balancing Safety and Freedom: How Can We Protect Minors Online Without Stifling Their Digital Growth

In the vibrant digital tapestry of Malaysia, where smartphone screens glow in the hands of the young as frequently as textbooks, a critical national conversation unfolds. Our children, digital natives from birth, navigate a world of boundless information, global connection and creative tools, a landscape offering unprecedented opportunities for growth and learning.

Yet, this same frontier is shadowing very real threats: curated feeds of misinformation, the pervasive sting of cyberbullying and platforms that can amplify anxiety, social comparison and peer pressures.

This duality presents our central challenge: how do we construct guardrails on this vast digital highway without closing the lanes to exploration, discovery and the essential digital development. The quest is not to build a walled garden, but to cultivate resilience, ensuring safety and freedom are not opposing forces but complementary pillars of a healthy online upbringing.

With the Online Safety Act 2025 in force on 1 January 2026, this Act is poised to become a cornerstone of Malaysia's regulatory framework. It aims to provide a shield, mandating platforms to proactively remove harmful content and establish clear reporting mechanisms. It aims to create a baseline of security, to ensure the potential online dangers are kept at bay.

Thus, legislation alone is a blunt instrument. The most powerful firewall we can build lies not in silicon, but in minds. Complemented with digital literacy as the fundamental is essential. This can equip families to have open conversations, setting shared expectations and understanding online worlds together, thereby transforming anxiety into engaged mentorship.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Mr. Derek John Fernandez

Commission Member

MCMC

With over 30 years of experience as a legal practitioner, he is a Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of Malaya and the Supreme Court of Victoria, Australia. Serving for 13 years as a Councilor in MBPJ and currently a member of the MBPJ Finance Committee, Mr. Derek John Fernandez is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Malaysian Nature Society, a Director and Audit Committee member of CyberSecurity Malaysia (CSM), and a member of the National Water Services Commission (SPAN). He also holds the position of Chairman of the Joint Action Committee for Bukit Gasing (JACBG).

Derek has received various awards for his direct involvement in the formulation of the Selangor State Planning Policy 2, Petaling District Structure Planning Policy, and Petaling Jaya Local Planning Policy. His expertise is recognised in areas of civil law, local government law, land law, and planning and development law for government personnel, professional associations, residents, and the public. He has been appointed as the Chairman of MCMC Online Harms & Information Security, Chairman of the MCMC Legislation Committee, recognised expert in media cybersecurity and multimedia law, and has authored papers such as "Cybersecurity: The Need for a Change in Approach" and "Legal Framework & Powers of MCMC under Existing Laws to implement cybersecurity to tackle online harms."

DIALOGUE 1

Online Safety by Design – Platform Accountability and Child Protection in an Age of User Vulnerability

Strategic Track: Strengthening Platform Accountability for Online Safety by Design

The increasing exposure of children and vulnerable users to online harm has underscored the need for a structural shift in how digital safety is governed. As online platforms play a central role in shaping information flows, social interaction, and access to services, safety can no longer be treated as a downstream or user-managed issue.

The principle of Online Safety by Design recognises that responsibility must be embedded at the platform level, through governance frameworks, risk assessments, and system design, ensuring that safeguards are integral to digital services rather than reactive responses to harm.

Malaysia's Online Safety Act (ONSA), which takes effect from 1 January 2026 reflects this evolving regulatory approach by placing clear and enforceable obligations on online service providers to address harmful content and systemic risks. The Act signals a move beyond content takedown toward preventive, accountability-driven measures, including compliance mechanisms and regulatory oversight.

Importantly, ONSA positions child protection as a core regulatory priority, recognising that safeguards designed for children often set the baseline for broader protections across the digital ecosystem. In doing so, Malaysia aligns itself with international regulatory developments that emphasise platform responsibility, transparency, and duty of care. For policymakers and regulators, the central challenge lies in translating these principles into consistent, proportionate, and future-ready regulatory practice.

As user vulnerability extends beyond children to encompass marginalised groups and digitally disadvantaged users, effective online safety governance must balance protection, innovation, and fundamental rights.

This discussion therefore focuses on how platform accountability can be operationalised through regulation, supervision and cross-sector collaboration, positioning online safety not as a standalone intervention, but as a foundational element of responsible digital governance and public trust in the digital economy.



MODERATOR

Ms. Eneng Faridah Iskandar

Deputy Managing Director (Development)
MCMC



PANELLIST

Datuk Thiyagu Ganesan

Deputy Director General (Law Reform)
Legal Affairs Division
Prime Minister's Department



PANELLIST

Mr. Kamaruddin Abdul Rani

Undersecretary, Control and Compliance Division
Ministry of Communications, Malaysia



PANELLIST

H.E. Danielle Heinecke

High Commissioner
Australian High Commission, Malaysia



PANELLIST

Dr. Farah Nini Dusuki

Child Commissioner
SUHAKAM



PANELLIST

Ms. Saskia Blume

Chief of Child Protection
UNICEF Malaysia



PANELLIST

Mr. Gurtaj Singh Padda

Chief Executive Officer
Tune Talk

DIALOGUE 2

Sovereign Data, Empowered Citizens – Building Trust, Privacy and Consumer Rights in Malaysia's Digital Future

Strategic Track: Digital Trust, Protection and Consumer Empowerment

In today's digitally connected Malaysia, data has become our most valuable national asset. In light of this, its control and governance now present a critical focus for our future. The discussion turns to a foundational principle: Data Sovereignty.

We examine how asserting control over data within our borders forms the essential bedrock for achieving three crucial national goals: building public Digital Trust, ensuring robust Data Privacy, and enabling genuine Consumer Empowerment.

The discussion focuses on interconnectivity: How does sovereign control over data storage and flow create the infrastructure necessary for enforcing strong privacy laws? How does this foundation of control enable trust in e-government and digital commerce?

Ultimately, how can this sovereignty be designed to empower Malaysians, by giving them transparency and control over their personal information, fostering a competitive local digital market, and allowing anonymised national data to serve the public good.

Charting the way forward requires a unified vision. This brings policymakers, technologists, business leaders and civil society. Our goal is to shift the paradigm, to see Data Sovereignty not as a restrictive policy, but as Malaysia's strategic enabler for a secure, innovative, and citizen-centric digital economy and the ecosystem as a whole.

We will explore the regulatory frameworks, technological infrastructure and collaborative models needed to build a digital future that is truly sovereign, trusted and empowering for all.



MODERATOR

Mr. Che Juhan Che Mat

Chief National Sovereign AI Cloud Office
MCMC



PANELLIST

Dr. Connie McIntosh

Head of Security
Ericsson



PANELLIST

Mr. Chin Kok Loon

Head of Cloud Solutions (Enterprise)
Maxis



PANELLIST

Mr. Nik Emir Nik Mohamed Din

Head of External Affairs
Sea & Shopee Malaysia



PANELLIST

Mr. Foo Yeong Jin

Chief Risk Officer
TNG Digital

DIALOGUE 3

Regulatory Aspiration vs. Economic Reality – Contours of Policy Successes and Shortfalls

Strategic Track: Aligning Regulatory Ambition with Economic Outcomes

Regulators are driven by strong aspirations to protect the public interest and correct market failures. Yet, turning policy intent into effective regulation requires navigating complex economic realities and market behaviour.

In practice, even well-meaning regulation can create uneven outcomes. Compliance costs, unintended incentives, and market responses may limit impact or slow innovation.

This discussion examines how regulation can better align ambition with results. Adaptive, evidence-based approaches are key to delivering real economic and societal value.



MODERATOR

Datuk Zurkarnain Mohd Yasin

Senior Advisor (Operations)
MCMC



PANELLIST

Datuk Prof. Dr. Mohd Faiz

Executive Chairman
ISIS Malaysia



PANELLIST

Prof. Dr. Mohamad

Salmi Mohd Sohod
Commission Member
MCMC



PANELLIST

Ms. Aida Azmi

Joint Managing Director & Partner
PEMANDU Associates

DIALOGUE 4

The Proliferation of Artificial Intelligence and the Humanities – Its Vulnerabilities, Capabilities and Interdisciplinary Landscape

Strategic Track: Innovation-Driven Ecosystems | Robust Regulatory Framework

The rapid spread of Artificial Intelligence is reshaping not only technology but also culture, ethics, and governance, bringing it into direct conversation with humanities. While AI offers powerful tools for efficiency, creativity, and knowledge production, it lacks the moral judgment, cultural context, and ethical reasoning needed to guide its societal impact.

The humanities therefore play a critical role in shaping how AI is designed, used, and governed, helping societies decide not just what is technologically possible, but what is socially responsible. The central challenge for policymakers and institutions is to ensure that AI innovation advances in tandem with human values, so that technological progress strengthens, rather than undermines an inclusive and ethical future.



MODERATOR

Prof. Dr. Mohamad

Salmi Mohd Sohod

Commission Member
MCMC



PANELLIST

Mr. Azuree Hydani Misri

Head of AI & Data Innovation
CelcomDigi



PANELLIST

Mr. Fazlan Abdullah

Head of the PreEmptive
Technology & Services Division
CyberSecurity Malaysia



PANELLIST

Ms. Victoria Wymark

AI & Data Transformation Director
PwC Southeast Asia Consulting



PANELLIST

Mr. Hazremi Hamid

Senior Officer, Digital Economy
ASEAN Secretariat

DIALOGUE 5

Quantum Technology and Communication – Architecture and Innovation, A Forward Approach

Strategic Track: Building a Quantum-Ready Malaysia.

This dialogue examines how quantum technologies are reshaping the future of communications, cybersecurity and digital infrastructure. From quantum-safe networks and post-quantum cryptography to quantum-enabled computing and sensing, these emerging capabilities have the potential to transform how information is transmitted, secured and processed. As nations accelerate investments in quantum innovation, the convergence of technology, policy and infrastructure will become increasingly important in safeguarding digital trust and strengthening national competitiveness.

For Malaysia, a forward approach requires more than technological readiness. It calls for the development of a collaborative quantum ecosystem encompassing talent, research, industry partnerships and regulatory frameworks. By fostering innovation while ensuring secure, trusted and responsible deployment, Malaysia can position itself to harness the opportunities of quantum technologies and strengthen its role in the next generation of the digital economy.



MODERATOR

Datuk Ts. Dr. Mohamed Sulaiman bin Sultan Suhaibuddeen
Deputy Managing Director
(Regulatory)
MCMC



PANELLIST

Prof. Dr. Raymond Ooi
Department of Physics
Faculty of Science
University of Malaya (UM)



PANELLIST

Dr. Yap Yung Szen
Department of Physics
Faculty of Science
Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM)



PANELLIST

Prof. Dato' Dr. Sufian Jusoh
Vice Chancellor
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)



PANELLIST

Mr. Rizwan Hussain
Head of Sales APAC & Japan
IBM Quantum

DIALOGUE 6

Regulating the Robotics Revolution – A Cross-Sector Imperative

Strategic Track: Governance, Safety and Human Oversight in Advanced Robotics

Robotics is rapidly evolving beyond traditional automation into intelligent systems embedded within smart cities and critical infrastructure. Integrated with AI, urban robotics now supports public services, mobility, utilities and emergency response, often operating autonomously in complex and high-risk environments, making effective regulation essential.

As these systems become more capable, strong checks and balances are needed to define clear boundaries between human judgment and machine action. Robust oversight ensures accountability, safety and public trust, ensuring robotics remains a tool that serves human priorities rather than replaces them.



MODERATOR

Ts. Dr. Ahmad Nasruddin 'Atiqullah Fakrullah
Chief Regulatory Officer
MCMC



PANELLIST

Mr. Steven Ding
Country Manager
AGIBOT Malaysia



PANELLIST

Ts. K Nantha Kumar
Founder & Chief Executive Officer
PULSY Technology



PANELLIST

Dr. Zati Hakim Azizul Hasan
Senior Lecturer Department
of Artificial Intelligence,
Faculty of Computer Science
and Information Technology
University of Malaya (UM)

DIALOGUE 7

Digital Dependency and Human Autonomy – Mental Well-being, Knowledge Integrity and Boundaries in an Always-On Society

Strategic Track: Preserving Knowledge Integrity and Human Autonomy in a Tech-Driven Society

The digital age has reshaped how people live, work, learn, and make decisions, offering constant connectivity and unprecedented access to information. While these advances bring convenience and opportunity, they also introduce risks of digital addiction and cognitive dependency.

Adults increasingly struggle with blurred work-life boundaries, constant notifications, and digital fatigue, while children and adolescents face overexposure that can affect attention, learning, and emotional development. At the same time, algorithms and AI systems shape what information is consumed and trusted, subtly influencing how people think and decide.

Beyond well-being, technology increasingly mediates knowledge and behaviour. Recommendation systems and persuasive design influence not only what people read, but also what they buy, eat, and aspire to. Marketed as personalisation, these systems can reduce diversity of choice, weaken critical thinking and foster dependency on opaque platforms optimised for engagement rather than autonomy. When convenience replaces reflection, both mental resilience and independent judgment are diminished.

Addressing these challenges requires a holistic approach that combines wellbeing, autonomy, and governance. Clear boundaries, at individual, organisational, and platform levels, are essential to manage technology overuse and restore balance. Responsible technology design, digital literacy, and regulatory guidance must work together to separate knowledge from manipulation and use from dependence. The goal is not to disconnect, but to ensure digital tools enhance mental health, informed choice, and human agency rather than quietly eroding them.



MODERATOR
Ms. Stella Jeevamani Navaratnam
Chief Development Officer
MCMC



PANELLIST
Dr. Mahesh Appannan
Director, Digital Health Division
Ministry of Health



PANELLIST
Ms. Mediha Mahmood
Chief Executive Officer
Communications and Multimedia
Content Forum of Malaysia



PANELLIST
Dr. Lai Siew Tim
Clinical Psychologist and Lecturer Department of
Psychological Medicine, Faculty of Medicine
University of Malaya (UM)



PANELLIST
Dr. Chua Sook Ning
Founder & Director
RELATE Malaysia

DIALOGUE 8

Regional and Global Regulatory Collaboration

Strategic Track: Robust Regulatory Framework

This concluding dialogue focuses on strengthening regional and international regulatory cooperation to address shared digital challenges.

Speakers will discuss mechanisms for information-sharing, alignment of regulatory approaches, and collective responses to emerging risks. The session underscores the role of collaboration in enhancing regulatory effectiveness, fostering trust, and shaping a cohesive digital future.



MODERATOR

Datuk Zurkarnain Mohd Yasin
Senior Advisor (Operations)
MCMC



PANELLIST

Ms. Noelle de Guzman
Senior Director for Regional Affairs
Asia-Pacific
Internet Society (ISOC)



PANELLIST

Ms. Sulyna Abdullah
Chief of Strategic Planning and
Membership Department and
Special Advisor to the
Secretary-General
International Telecommunication
Union (ITU)



PANELLIST

Ms. Farhati Ahmad Tajuddin
Legal Advisor
Ministry of Communications, Malaysia



PANELLIST

Mr. Hazremi Hamid
Senior Officer, Digital Economy
ASEAN Secretariat

DIALOGUE 9

Innovation Driven Autonomous Ecosystems and Industry Transformation

Strategic Track: Innovation-Driven Ecosystems

This dialogue explores how regulatory frameworks can catalyse innovation and support industry transformation across the communications and multimedia sector, with digital healthcare positioned as a key innovation frontier within the broader digital economy.

As technologies such as artificial intelligence, data analytics, cloud platforms, and high-speed connectivity increasingly converge with healthcare delivery, regulators face the challenge of enabling innovation while safeguarding public interest.

The session will examine how digital health solutions, including telemedicine, remote patient monitoring, AI-assisted diagnostics, and health platforms, are reshaping service models and expanding access to care. Discussions will focus on the role of regulatory agility, cross-sector collaboration, and sandbox approaches in fostering innovation, while ensuring safety, interoperability, and accountability. By highlighting digital healthcare as a case study of innovation-driven transformation, this dialogue underscores the importance of adaptive regulation in unlocking societal and economic value in the next digital era.



MODERATOR

Mr. Muhammad Razali Anuar
Chief Industry Development Officer
MCMC



PANELLIST

Mr. Nicholas Yong
Senior Vertical Solution Expert
Huawei Malaysia



PANELLIST

Dr. Vivek Jason Jayaraj
Deputy Director,
Digital Health Division
Ministry of Health, Malaysia



PANELLIST

Ms. Junaida Abdullah
Head of Enterprise Innovation Platform
U Mobile



PANELLIST

Mr. Joseph Walker-Cousins
Head of International Development
Cloud Solutions (Habib Medical Group)

DIALOGUE 10

Progressive Talent, Digital Skills and Future Workplace

Strategic Track: Progressive Talent and Workplace

Human capital remains central to the success of the digital economy. This dialogue examines how regulators, industry, and institutions can collaborate to develop future-ready talent and inclusive digital workplaces.

Topics include skills development, workforce transformation, and regulatory considerations related to new forms of work. The session highlights the importance of people-centric policies in sustaining digital resilience and competitiveness.



MODERATOR

Dr. Murugappan

Chief Human Resource Officer
MCMC



PANELLIST

Mr. Eric Du

Board Director, Vice President
Public Affairs & Communications
Huawei Malaysia



PANELLIST

Ts. Br. Jamil Bakri

Chief Executive Officer
Government-Industry TVET
Coordination Body



PANELLIST

Ms. Khim Tan

Chief Executive Officer
NeX Academy
Pinnacle Connexion

FEATURED MODERATORS & PANELLISTS

MODERATORS



MODERATOR

Ms. Eneng Faridah Iskandar

Deputy Managing Director (Development)
MCMC

Eneng Faridah Iskandar is the Deputy Managing Director (Development) of the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC). With over 30 years of professional experience spanning academia, legal and regulatory advisory, as well as the regulation, policy and development of the communications and multimedia industry, she has played a key role in shaping Malaysia's digital and communications landscape.

In her current role, she leads MCMC's efforts in infrastructure and industry development, innovation, state affairs and corporate communications, driving initiatives that support a resilient, inclusive and future-ready digital ecosystem for Malaysia.

She holds a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) in Business Law and a Master of Laws (LL.M.).



MODERATOR

Mr. Che Juhan Che Mat

Chief National Sovereign AI Cloud Office
MCMC

Che Juhan Che Mat is the Chief National Sovereign AI Cloud Office at the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC). He leads initiatives to advance Malaysia's National Sovereign AI Cloud, enabling secure, trusted, and sovereign AI and cloud capabilities that support the nation's digital transformation.

With over 30 years of experience in telecommunications, Che Juhan has been instrumental in Malaysia's 5G development and continues to drive technology initiatives that strengthen the country's digital infrastructure and AI ecosystem.



MODERATOR

Datuk Zurkarnain Mohd Yasin

Senior Advisor (Operations)
MCMC

Datuk Zurkarnain Mohd Yasin is the Senior Advisor (Operations) at the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC), providing strategic leadership on regulatory priorities and institutional initiatives that strengthen Malaysia's trusted, secure, and future-ready digital ecosystem. With more than two decades of experience in communications and digital regulation, he has played a pivotal role in shaping Malaysia's regulatory landscape across telecommunications, online safety, cybersecurity, digital platforms, and emerging technologies. His leadership has contributed to the development of forward-looking policies and regulatory frameworks that foster innovation, strengthen digital trust, and enhance national resilience. A respected voice in regional and international policy circles, Datuk Zurkarnain represents Malaysia at global forums, including the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), championing collaboration on trusted connectivity, digital governance, cyber resilience, and future-ready regulation. Through his leadership and international engagement, he continues to shape the global conversation on building trusted digital ecosystems that balance innovation, security, and inclusive growth in an increasingly connected world.



MODERATOR

Prof. Dr. Mohamad Salmi Mohd Sohod

Commission Member
MCMC

YBrs. Prof. Dr. Mohamad Salmi is a seasoned educationist, having been involved in both private and public higher education for more than 30 years now. Currently, YBrs Prof. Dr. Mohamad Salmi is a Professor and Chairman of Asia Metropolitan University. He also currently sits on the Board of Governors of several other universities, namely Kings University College, ASIA Metropolitan International School and Cyberjaya University.

YBrs Prof Dr. Mohamad Salmi is a member of the Board of Trustee of Yayasan Foodbank Malaysia, and the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Uniutama Management Holdings Sdn. Bhd. Prior to that, he served as an Associate Professor in Universiti Utara Malaysia and as a Professor/Deputy Vice Chancellor at Universiti Tun Abdul Razak. YBrs. Prof. Dr. Mohamad Salmi used to serve as a Professor/Associate Dean at Sheikh Hamdan University, Dubai United Arab Emirates in 2002.

MODERATORS



MODERATOR

Datuk Ts. Dr. Mohamed Sulaiman bin Sultan Suhaibuddeen

Deputy Managing Director (Regulatory)
MCMC

Datuk Ts. Dr. Mohamed Sulaiman bin Sultan Suhaibuddeen is the Deputy Managing Director (Regulatory) of the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC). He oversees Malaysia's communications and digital regulatory ecosystem, providing strategic leadership in policy and governance, regulatory enforcement, spectrum and market oversight, network security, online safety, technology standards, and digital transformation, while driving the adoption of emerging technologies to strengthen the nation's digital economy and resilience.

With nearly 30 years of leadership experience in information and communications technology, cybersecurity and telecommunications, he has played a pivotal role in advancing critical information infrastructure protection, artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, and next-generation communications. He actively promotes collaboration between government, industry, academia and international partners to strengthen digital trust, accelerate innovation, and position Malaysia as a secure, resilient and globally competitive digital nation.



MODERATOR

Ts. Dr. Ahmad Nasruddin 'Atiqullah Fakrullah

Chief Regulatory Officer
MCMC

Dr. Ahmad Nasruddin 'Atiqullah presently serves as the Chief Regulatory Officer at the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC), the regulatory body overseeing the communications and multimedia sector. With over two decades of experience, his tenure at MCMC since 2004 has seen him hold diverse roles.

His journey within MCMC spans roles in the Spectrum Planning Division (2004–2014), leadership as the Head of MCMC Academy (2015–March 2019), stewardship of the Technology and Standards Division (2020–September 2022), oversight of the Infrastructure Planning and Management Division and promoted to Chief Technical and Monitoring Officer in Nov 2023. Prior to his tenure at MCMC, Dr. Nasruddin commenced his professional journey as a telecommunication engineer at TM Touch.

Due to his significant contributions to the field, Dr. Nasruddin was appointed Adjunct Professor at UTM's Faculty of Electrical Engineering in 2023, with his role continuing into 2025. He actively engages with academia as an Industry Advisory Panel member for various faculties across esteemed institutions such as UTM, UPM, and UKM.

Dr. Nasruddin holds a BEng. (Hons) in Electronics Engineering from Multimedia University and a Masters in Information Management from Universiti Teknologi MARA. Notably, in March 2018, he attained the prestigious Doctor of Engineering (Engineering Business Management) degree from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia.



MODERATOR

Ms. Stella Jeevamani Navaratnam

Chief Development Officer
MCMC

Stella Navaratnam currently holds the position of Chief Development Officer at MCMC. Her portfolio covers the areas of planning and deployment of commercial and non-commercial communications infrastructure and service provisioning under the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998. She is also responsible for managing the planning of the postal and courier services in Malaysia.

Stella has been with MCMC for the past 24 years, and has been exposed to both developmental and operational environments in her tenure of service with the Commission.



MODERATOR

Mr. Muhammad Razali Anuar

Chief Industry Development Officer
MCMC

Muhammad Razali Anuar is the Chief Industry Development Officer at MCMC, with a career spanning 30 years and more than two decades of experience in communications and multimedia policy, regulation, digital infrastructure, and industry development. He has led initiatives in broadband, digital economy, AI readiness, and digitalisation, with a strong focus on inclusive access and ensuring that digital transformation delivers meaningful benefits to communities, businesses, and the rakyat.



MODERATOR

Dr. Murugappan

Chief Human Resource Officer
MCMC

Dr. Murugappan is the Chief Human Resources Officer of the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC), bringing over 30 years of leadership experience in human resources across multinational corporations, the public sector and academia. A recognised thought leader in human capital management, Dr. Murugappan's expertise spans digital leadership, people analytics, evidence-based management and organisational development. An accomplished author, researcher and certified executive coach, he continues to champion innovative people practices and talent development while contributing actively to academia and industry through research, publications and advisory roles.

PANELLISTS



PANELLIST

Dr. Farah Nini Dusuki

Child Commissioner
SUHAKAM

Dr. Farah Nini Dusuki is a Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Law, University of Malaya and has been a faculty member since December 2007. Prior to that she had served the Ahmad Ibrahim Kulliyah of Laws, International Islamic University for 15 years, since having obtained her LL.B and Masters of Comparative Laws. She obtained her PhD from Cardiff University, Wales, United Kingdom in 2002 with a thesis on the socio-legal analysis on protecting children from child abuse and neglect. Her wider research interest includes, and is not limited to criminal justice, child justice, protection of adolescents in sexual reproductive health issues and the implementation and enforcement of children's rights in Malaysia. Her background in both civil and Islamic law has put her in good stead in approaching child-related issues from both perspectives. Her recent works, both unpublished and published relates to the rights of children in more specific issues such child abuse and neglect, stateless children, corporal punishment, child marriage, teenage pregnancies and abortion and alternatives to custodial orders for children in conflict with the law, particularly diversion and restorative justice approaches.

In summary, Dr. Farah's journey spanning over 30 years both academically and as a staunch child advocate is indicative of her passion to bring about change for children in the corridors of knowledge and governance. She has contributed richly and passionately in various fields of legal studies, particularly in the areas of child law, criminal justice and the advancement of teaching and learning the law and has led to her being a sought after speaker throughout the country on these areas. As a specialist in many matters pertaining to children and criminal justice, she is honoured to be assisting four Ministries, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry for Women, Family and Community Development, the Ministry of Education and most recently the Prime Minister's Office. These involvements provide the dual advantage of effecting policy and legislative change at the highest levels, as well as provide opportunities to train key official stakeholders on children's rights/issues.



PANELLIST

Ms. Saskia Blume

Chief of Child Protection
UNICEF Malaysia

Saskia Blume is UNICEF Malaysia's Chief of Child Protection since mid-2022, where she oversees UNICEF's child protection programming in Malaysia focusing on ending all forms of violence against children, whether online or offline.

In the past 15 years, Saskia has worked in UNICEF Headquarters in New York, setting global policy standards and supporting across the 190 countries and territories UNICEF is active in, as well as across the region, including in Myanmar, Vietnam as well as here in Malaysia.

At UNICEF Malaysia, Saskia and her team engage in policy advocacy, generate evidence and provide technical support to inform national policies, legal reform and standard setting, drawing on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, global normative standards and international best practice.



PANELLIST

Mr. Gurtaj Singh Padda

Chief Executive Officer
Tune Talk

Gurtaj Singh Padda, visionary Co-founder, Executive Director, and now CEO of Tune Talk, marks his return to the company following a strategic acquisition that positions him as the majority shareholder. Dubbed a "Tech Maverick," Gurtaj was instrumental in shaping Tune Talk's original business blueprint in 2007 and later steered its 2009 launch as Chief Operating Officer (COO). Under his early leadership, Tune Talk forged a strong alliance with Celcom (now CelcomDigi), rapidly establishing itself as a customer-first MVNO offering affordable, flexible mobile plans to Malaysians. After departing in 2010 to pursue global tech ventures, Gurtaj built an impressive portfolio with industry giants including Nokia Singapore and Tata Communications. Now, over a decade later, he returns to lead Tune Talk with a bold, future-forward vision. As CEO, he has already overseen Tune Talk's transformation into the first fully cloud-native mobile network operator in Asia—a testament to his commitment to digital innovation and operational agility.

At the helm once again, Gurtaj brings not just experience, but a renewed sense of purpose. Passionate about bridging tech and people, he champions a culture of transparency, creativity, and speed. Affectionately known as "The Chief Talker," he is often seen sharing insights on business, tech trends, and life lessons—staying grounded while propelling the company to new heights.



PANELLIST

Datuk Thiyagu Ganesan

Deputy Director General (Law Reform), Legal Affairs Division
Prime Minister's Department

Datuk Thiyagu Ganesan is the Deputy Director General (Law Reform) at the Legal Affairs Division of the Prime Minister's Department, Malaysia, where he leads national efforts in legislative reform, strategic legal policy, and high-level legal advisory work involving constitutional, commercial, regulatory, and public law matters. He also serves as a Commissioner of the Malaysia Competition Commission (MyCC).

He has spearheaded major legislative initiatives, including the Online Safety Act 2025 and the Anti-Bully Act 2026, drawing from over a decade of public sector experience across the Attorney General's Chambers and various ministries where his expertise spans legislative drafting, institutional reform, regulatory governance, and complex policy development.

PANELLISTS



PANELLIST

H.E. Danielle Heinecke

High Commissioner
Australian High Commission, Malaysia

H.E. Danielle Heinecke is a senior career officer with Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and was appointed High Commissioner-designate of the Australian High Commission in Kuala Lumpur in December 2023.

Most recently, H.E. Danielle Heinecke was First Assistant Secretary, Pacific Melanesia Division. She has previously served overseas in Timor-Leste, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. H.E. Danielle Heinecke holds a Master of Economics, University of New England (2006); Master of Arts in International Relations, Australian National University (2000); and a Bachelor of Commerce, University of New South Wales (1998).



PANELLIST

Mr. Kamaruddin Abdul Rani

Undersecretary, Control and Compliance Division
Ministry of Communications, Malaysia

Kamarudin bin Abdul Rani, a highly distinguished serving as the Undersecretary for the Control and Compliance Division within the Ministry of Communications Malaysia, offers over 20 years of progressive experience in strategic governance and national policy execution. Throughout his career, he has successfully established high-stakes control and compliance mandates, directed large-scale ministerial development initiatives, and provided critical strategic oversight through key board governance and national committee leadership roles. He is currently seeking to leverage this deep public sector domain expertise and proven executive leadership to transition into a high-impact international or private-sector advisory capacity.



PANELLIST

Mr. Chin Kok Loon

Head of Cloud Solutions (Enterprise)
Maxis

Chin Kok Loon brings over 20 years of leadership in transformation, enterprise technology and cloud. He currently leads the development of resilient, localised infrastructures, including secure AI ecosystems.

With a background in senior executive roles across global consulting and regional ICT sectors, Chin has extensive experience architecting highly regulated, large-scale data ecosystems, enterprise data hubs, and AI platforms.

Today, his work focuses on accelerating safe, compliant AI adoption across the public and private sectors to support Malaysia's digital economy.



PANELLIST

Mr. Foo Yeong Jin

Chief Risk Officer
TNG Digital

Foo Yeong Jin joined TNG Digital in 2018 and rose through roles in risk and data strategy before becoming Chief Risk Officer in 2023, building a data-driven risk and security framework for the company. Under his leadership, TNG Digital cut fraud losses by over 80% and developed a proprietary AI-powered credit scorecard using alternative data to expand access to financing for underserved Malaysians. He champions innovation balanced with strong security and user trust.



PANELLIST

Dr. Connie McIntosh

Head of Security
Ericsson

Dr. Connie McIntosh is a cybersecurity executive, academic, mentor and international speaker. She currently serves as Head of Security, MOAI at Ericsson. Dr. McIntosh integrates cybersecurity, information security, operational security, and data privacy into strategic business enablers. Her background is in National Security and Cyber Defense working in key Cybersecurity Leadership roles across Defense and Government classified networks, Academia and private enterprise. Her leadership and dedication to mentoring the next generation of security leaders has earned her back-to-back international awards.



PANELLIST

Datuk Prof. Dr. Mohd Faiz

Executive Chairman
ISIS Malaysia

Datuk Prof. Dr. Mohd Faiz Abdullah is the Executive Chairman and Chief Executive of the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia, the country's premier policy think tank. He leads the institute's work on strategic research, public policy and Track Two diplomacy, while also serving on several regional and international platforms, including the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Good Governance.

With extensive experience spanning law, governance, strategic affairs and public policy, Datuk Prof. Faiz has advised both federal and state governments on national and international issues. He is also the author of several books on geopolitics, governance and the Fourth Industrial Revolution, including Strategic Shift: Preparing Malaysia for a Turbulent Future.

PANELLISTS



PANELLIST

Mr. Nik Emir Nik Mohamed Din

Head of External Affairs
Sea & Shopee Malaysia

Nik Emir is the Head of Public & External Affairs (MY) for Shopee Malaysia & Sea Ltd. He currently oversees the Public Policy, Government Affairs, Stakeholder Management and Corporate Communications functions for Shopee & Sea Ltd Malaysia. Prior to that, he was the Co-CEO at Bitsmedia, the leading global technology developer of the Muslim Pro app with over 150 million users worldwide. During his time at Bitsmedia, he was also involved in overseeing the entire business, technology and operations infrastructure through his past roles as Country Head (Malaysia), Head of Business Development (Global) and Chief Financial Officer for the Group. Prior to his management roles at Bitsmedia, Nik Emir had an extensive career in Investment Banking in Singapore where he raised more than S\$5.5 billion in capital for Singapore Corporates, SMEs and the Housing Development & Development Board with DMG & Partners Securities. He then joined RHB's regional Mergers & Acquisitions team where he executed cross-border M&A and Joint Venture deals across South-East Asia.

Nik Emir began his career at Khazanah Nasional Berhad where he was part of the Investments team that managed the RM3 billion joint-venture investment with Singapore's Temasek sovereign wealth fund and Legoland investment projects in Iskandar Malaysia.



PANELLIST

Ms. Aida Azmi

Joint Managing Director & Partner
PEMANDU Associates

Aida partners with heads of government and senior decision-makers to shape and deliver national socioeconomic and digital public infrastructure transformation across Africa, Middle East and Asia. A Fellow of the Chartered Certified Accountants (FCCA), she brings a rare blend of financial discipline, reform expertise, and systems-level thinking honed through roles with PwC Southeast Asia, EY Middle East, Arthur D. Little Saudi Arabia, and global development institutions including UNDP and UN Economic Commission for Africa.



PANELLIST

Mr. Hazremi Hamid

Senior Officer, Digital Economy
ASEAN Secretariat

Hazremi Hamid is a seasoned technology professional and former career diplomatic official with over 15 years of experience. He currently serves as the Senior Officer for Digital Economy at the ASEAN Secretariat based in Jakarta, Indonesia, where he leads regional initiatives under the ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2030. His portfolio covers digital economy areas such as digital infrastructure, cross-border data flows, and AI governance. He also provides technical and policy guidance to the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA) and serves as a lead resource on the ASEAN AI Governance and Ethics Framework.

Before joining the ASEAN Secretariat, Hazremi has held senior roles in the Malaysia's Prime Minister's Department, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation of Malaysia (MOSTI), and the private sector, including Panasonic R&D and Measat Broadcast Network System (ASTRO).

Hazremi holds an Honours Degree in Information Technology from Multimedia University, Malaysia. He also holds a Master of Public Policy from the University of Bath, UK. He is a certified PRINCE2® Practitioner in Project Management and holds a Certificate in Business and Climate Change from the University of Cambridge.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Hazremi is a prominent speaker on AI governance and digital transformation in ASEAN and has published numerous articles on technology trends and digital transformation. He is dedicated to advancing responsible, safe use of AI and sustainable digital transformation across ASEAN.



PANELLIST

Ms. Victoria Wymark

AI & Data Transformation Director
PwC Southeast Asia Consulting

Victoria is a Director in PwC's AI and Data Transformation Team, helping organisations cut through the hype; moving from ad hoc PoCs to systems-thinking transformation. With 14 years at PwC spanning Cambodia, Thailand, and Singapore, Vic brings deep expertise in finance function transformation, shared services design, large-scale system implementation, corporate governance, and organisational change.

PANELLISTS



PANELLIST

Mr. Azuree Hydani Misri

Head of AI & Data Innovation
CelcomDigi

Azuree Hydani is the Head of AI & Data Innovation at CelcomDigi, where he leads the company's AI, data and automation initiatives to drive innovation and strengthen business capabilities. He oversees the development and implementation of technology solutions that enhance operational efficiency, accelerate digital transformation and create long-term business value.

With over 20 years of experience in technology and digital transformation, Azuree has led strategic initiatives across AI, data and enterprise innovation. He is committed to translating emerging technologies into practical business applications that improve organisational performance and deliver meaningful outcomes for customers and the business.



PANELLIST

Mr. Rizwan Hussain

Head of Sales APAC & Japan
IBM Quantum

Rizwan Hussain is the Head of Quantum for IBM's Asia Pacific business and a Distinguished Quantum Ambassador. He is responsible for evangelising quantum within the industry and works closely with national research labs, academic institutions and industry partners to build quantum ecosystems in the region.



PANELLIST

Mr. Fazlan Abdullah

Head of the PreEmptive Technology & Services Division
CyberSecurity Malaysia

Head of the Pre-Emptive Technology & Services Division at CyberSecurity Malaysia, leading functions spanning cyber risk intelligence, AI, technology strategy, and digital analysis to strengthen the nation's cyber resilience. He has played a key role in shaping national cyber policies, including the National Cyber Security Policy, Malaysia's Cyber Security Strategy, the Cyber Security Act 2024, AI Cyber Security Framework and the upcoming AI Governance Act. He has contributed to ISO standards, public sector frameworks, and led certification programmes for local ICT products, and was seconded to JPDP as Assistant Commissioner for 2 years. His experience spans government, regulatory, and operational domains, with deep involvement in cybersecurity, data protection, and national-level coordination.



PANELLIST

Dr. Yap Yung Szen

Department of Physics
Faculty of Science
Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM)

Dr. Yap Yung Szen is a subject matter expert in quantum computers, with over 17 years of experience specialising in microwave control systems.

He is a Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Science, UTM; an Associate Professor at The University of Osaka; and CTO and Board Director of AQSolotl, an NTU and NUS quantum computing startup. Recognised as one of UNESCO's Quantum 100, his work supports quantum technology development, ecosystem building, and cross-border collaboration across Malaysia, Singapore, and Japan.



PANELLIST

Ms. Junaida Abdullah

Head of Enterprise Innovation Platform
U Mobile

Junaida Abdullah is the Head of Enterprise Innovation Platform (EIP) at U Mobile, leading a neutral platform that brings together enterprises, technology partners, innovators and government to co-create, test, demonstrate and accelerate the commercialisation of AI and 5G solutions across industries. With over 25 years of leadership experience spanning enterprise strategy, commercialisation, partnerships and business transformation, she specialises in translating emerging technologies into scalable enterprise adoption and measurable industry outcomes.

PANELLISTS



PANELLIST

Prof. Dato' Dr. Sufian Jusoh

Vice Chancellor

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)

Professor Dato' Dr. Sufian Jusoh is the Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (the National University of Malaysia), since 5th of June 2025. Between 2018 and 2025, Sufian served as the Director and a Professor of International Trade and Investment of the Institute of Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS UKM), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

He is a globally renowned expert and scholar in the realm of International Trade and Investment, ASEAN and Regional Integration, and International Development. Professor Dato' Dr. Sufian Jusoh leads a knowledge team supporting the ASEAN Chairmanship 2025, with main contribution to the drafting of the ASEAN Vision 2045, the ASEAN Economic Community Strategic Plan 2026–2030, and the ASEAN Higher Education Declaration.

Professor Dato' Dr. Sufian Jusoh used to be a Malaysian delegate to the ASEAN High Level Task Force for ASEAN Community Vision Post-2025. In APEC, Professor Dato' Dr. Sufian Jusoh played a key role in the success of Malaysia's chairmanship of APEC 2020, leading to the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040, serving as the Malaysian representative to the preparation of the APEC Food Security Roadmap 2030, and as a delegate to the APEC Investment Expert Group.

Professor Dato' Dr. Sufian Jusoh is an FDI Advisor, ArtNet, under the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), an International Investment Policy Consultant at the World Bank Group, an External Fellow at the World Trade Institute, University of Bern, Switzerland, Malaysia's representative to ERIA RIN, and a Co-Founder of the ASEAN Economic Integration Forum. Sufian played a key role in the reform of investment policies in Bangladesh, Malaysia, Laos, Myanmar, Timor-Leste, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Pakistan.

Professor Dato' Dr. Sufian collaborates with the World Economic Forum, World Trade Institute, Oxford University, and the University of Cambridge. Sufian is also entrusted by the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia to establish the Malaysia–Switzerland Higher Education Nexus.

Professor Dato' Dr. Sufian Jusoh is a Barrister-at-Law (England and Wales) of Lincoln's Inn, London, and holds an LL.B (Hons.) from Cardiff Law School, an LL.M (Merit) from University College London, and a Doctor of Law (summa cum laude) from the University of Bern.



PANELLIST

Prof. Dr. Raymond Ooi

Department of Physics

Faculty of Science

University of Malaya (UM)

Prof. Dr. Raymond Ooi is a quantum physicist, his research is the unique combinations of topics in quantum optics, nonlinear optics, plasmonics, molecular spectroscopy, statistical physics of Bose-Einstein condensates and interactions with intense laser pulses.

He is well recognised in his field, internationally and locally. In 2025 he was elected a Fellow of OPTICA for the development of quantum theoretical framework on nonclassical photon correlations in Raman and quantum plasmonic systems. He is the first Malaysian to be elected a Fellow by OPTICA, the leading global professional society for scientists, engineers, and professionals, which recognises individuals for their outstanding contributions in optics and photonics. In 2013 he won the Malaysia Toray Science Foundation Science & Technology Award. He was elected a Fellow of the Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM) in 2015. He is also an elected Fellow of Academy of Engineering and Technology of the Developing World (AETDEW).

Raymond Ooi obtained his Dr.rer.nat (PhD) from Universitaet Konstanz, Germany in 2003. He spent 3 years as a postdoc at Texas A&M University, was a regular Visiting Scientist at Princeton University and Max-Planck Institut fuer Quantenoptik, He secured a High Impact Research grant and developed experimental lab on quantum and laser science. He was awarded the Long-Term Research Grant Scheme (LRGS) in 2020–2025 by the Ministry of Higher Education as the Principal Investigator on the national quantum communication research program. Prof Ooi developed undergraduate course on Quantum Optics and a postgraduate course on Quantum Technology. Besides being invited/plenary speaker at more than 35 international conferences, he regularly gave open public Seminars and Workshops to inspire students and the public on the wonders of quantum science and technology. In 2018, he initiated and chaired the first international conference on Quantum and Nonlinear Optics(QNO2018) attended by many luminaries in the field and acquired support of three external funds. He has served in the Editorial boards of several international journals.



PANELLIST

Mr. Steven Ding

Country Manager

AGIBOT Malaysia

Results-driven global business leader with 18+ years of experience in the ICT industry, and currently serving as Regional Director at AgiBot for Malaysia & Brunei markets. A former Huawei executive with a proven track record of delivering large-scale infrastructure projects, driving digital transformation, and scaling revenue across Europe, Africa, and Southeast Asia. Combines deep technical expertise with cross-cultural leadership skills to build strategic partnerships and accelerate the adoption of intelligent robotics solutions in emerging markets.

PANELLISTS



PANELLIST

Ts. K Nantha Kumar

Founder & Chief Executive Officer
PULSY Technology

Ts. K Nantha is a veteran technology entrepreneur and leader with over 25 years of experience in strategy, technology, and the IoT industry. His career spans the USA, UK, India, Singapore, Cambodia, and several other countries. He is the founder of PULSY Technology, specialising in telecommunications and education, and serves as Founder & Chairman of the Digital Internet Association Malaysia (iAM), an NGO focused on promoting IR4.0 awareness and capability building. He is currently pursuing a DBA at University Technology Malaysia (UTM) with a focus on Artificial Intelligence and Ethics. He has been recognised as one of Malaysia's "100 Inspirational LinkedIn Icons" and is a two-time winner of MCMC Aginxt – NCER & MPOB.



PANELLIST

Dr. Zati Hakim Azizul Hasan

Senior Lecturer Department of Artificial Intelligence,
Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology
University of Malaya (UM)

Dr. Zati is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Artificial Intelligence, Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology, Universiti Malaya. Her research covers AI robotics, swarm optimisation, SLAM, and soft sensor technologies, with applications in search and rescue, food security, intelligent farming, water monitoring, and genomics. MOHE awarded RM8.5 million for her UM AI Robotics Teaching and Learning Empowerment Project—a landmark initiative advancing national education and innovation.



PANELLIST

Dr. Chua Sook Ning

Founder & Director
RELATE Malaysia

Dr. Chua Sook Ning is the founder of Relate Malaysia, a nonprofit mental health organisation where she works as a clinical psychologist and public mental health practitioner. She is also a member of STRIPED's International Expert Advisory Panel at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, where she completed her Master of Public Health (MPH) in Epidemiology. A CBT Master Clinician certified by the Beck Institute for Cognitive Behavior Therapy and director of the Malaysian EFT Institute, she works to advance access to mental health care and strengthen the recognition of mental health as a fundamental human right.



PANELLIST

Ms. Mediha Mahmood

Chief Executive Officer
Communications and Multimedia Content Forum of Malaysia

Mediha Mahmood is a regulatory and legal professional with more than two decades of experience across law, public policy, media regulation, and content governance. As Chief Executive Officer of Malaysia's Communications and Multimedia Content Forum, she leads the industry's work on content standards, advocacy, consumer protection, and responsible self-regulation, working closely with industry, policymakers, and the public. Her career includes legal practice at Shearn Delamore & Co. and Zul Rafique & Partners, as well as senior legal, regulatory, and governance roles at PwC Malaysia, Astro, and AirAsia Digital.



PANELLIST

Dr. Mahesh Appannan

Director, Digital Health Division
Ministry of Health

Dr. Maheshwara Rao Appannan currently serves as the Director of the Digital Health Division at the Ministry of Health Malaysia, where he leads nationwide efforts to modernise and transform healthcare delivery. With over 19 years of experience spanning public health, big data analytics, and digital innovation, he is a key architect of Malaysia's digital health transformation.

In 2024, he led the nationwide implementation of the International Patient Summary, positioning Malaysia among early adopters of cross-border health information exchange. He currently serves on the World Health Organization Strategic Advisory Group for the Global Digital Health Certification Network (GDHCN), reinforcing Malaysia's leadership in interoperability and global health security.

In 2025, Dr. Appannan became one of the first Asians to receive the prestigious HIMSS Changemaker Award and was also honoured with the SEACare Digital Health Innovation Award. A frequent speaker at international forums, he represents Malaysia on global platforms addressing digital health transformation, cybersecurity, and health data governance. He also provides expert commentary on digital health and public health data governance, contributing to national and international discourse in these areas.

He is a strong advocate of Malaysia's "1 Person, 1 Record" vision, driving the development of a citizen-centric, interoperable health ecosystem that ensures every individual has a unified, lifelong health record enabling better care, improved outcomes, and a truly digital-first healthcare system.

PANELLISTS



PANELLIST

Dr. Lai Siew Tim

Clinical Psychologist and Lecturer Department of Psychological Medicine, Faculty of Medicine University of Malaya (UM)

Dr. Lai Siew Tim is a Registered Clinical Psychologist and Senior Lecturer in the Department of Psychological Medicine, University Malaya Medical Centre (UMMC). Her clinical and research work focuses on psychological wellbeing, cognitive assessment, mindfulness-based interventions, and psychosocial support, particularly in her field of interest – epilepsy. She is also actively involved in teaching, supervision, grant management, and interdisciplinary research in psychology and mental wellbeing. Drawing from her clinical and academic experience, she brings a mental health perspective to discussions on digital dependency, blurred boundaries, attention, emotional wellbeing, and the importance of preserving reflective thinking and human autonomy in daily life.



PANELLIST

Ms. Sulyna Abdullah

Chief of Strategic Planning and Membership Department and Special Advisor to the Secretary-General International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Sulyna Abdullah is the Chief of Strategic Planning and Membership, and Special Advisor to the Secretary General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), a position she took up from 1 October 2023. Sulyna joined the ITU in April 2021 as the Chief of the Digital Knowledge Hub in the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) and was the Executive Director of the ITU-UNESCO Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development until the Commission transitioned in 2025.

Prior to that, she spent close to two decades at the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) where she held various positions including Chief Officer for Corporate Strategy and Chief Transformation Officer.

After MCMC, Sulyna had a short stint in the private sector taking up a position in Netflix as Director of Public Policy for Southeast Asia. Throughout her career, Sulyna has held numerous positions on the international front representing Malaysia, focusing on public policy issues.



PANELLIST

Ms. Noelle de Guzman

Senior Director for Regional Affairs Asia-Pacific Internet Society (ISOC)

Noelle leads the Internet Society's portfolio of work and engagements in Asia-Pacific. She builds partnerships with stakeholders, including governments and intergovernmental bodies, to support infrastructure deployment and build capacity to strengthen connectivity, online safety and resilience in the region. In her role, she also represents the Internet Society in regional fora to advance an open, global, trusted and secure Internet.



PANELLIST

Ms. Farhati Ahmad Tajuddin

Legal Advisor
Ministry of Communications, Malaysia

An officer of the Attorney General's Chambers with 20 years of service, Farhati currently serves as the Legal Advisor for the Ministry of Communications. She oversees the ministry's legal office, providing strategic counsel, researching complex legal issues, and drafting legislations and government agreements.

Farhati holds an LLB from the International Islamic University Malaysia and an LLM in Corporate and Commercial Laws from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).



PANELLIST

Dr. Vivek Jason Jayaraj

Deputy Director,
Digital Health Division
Ministry of Health, Malaysia

Dr. Vivek Jason Jayaraj is a Public Health Physician with the Ministry of Health Malaysia, currently serving as the Deputy Director (Analytics & Informatics) of the Digital Health Division. His work in these roles has been in advancing Malaysia's public health intelligence by means of creating a comprehensive digital health data strategy.

Jason's expertise lies at the crossroads of data analytics, epidemiology, and its intersection with the health system. His career reflects a commitment to leveraging advanced analytical methods to address pressing public health challenges, with a focus on COVID-19, dengue, hand, foot, and mouth disease (HFMD), human resource optimisation, growth and nutrition, colorectal cancer and many others areas of public health. His contributions include evaluating the impact of non-pharmaceutical interventions on COVID-19 transmission and developing mathematical, time-series, and machine-learning models to forecast disease trends.

Jason's work has generated insights that inform public health policies, particularly in the context of outbreak prediction and disease prevention. He has an extensive publication record, including research on infectious disease modelling, COVID-19 epidemiology, and vaccine effectiveness. His research projects, such as the Real-world Effectiveness of COVID-19 Vaccines under the Malaysian National Immunisation Programme (RECoVAM) and automation in ICD-10 coding for death registration, exemplify his innovative approach to public health data management and precision health.

Jason is a big believer in building capacity within public health and strives to equip the workforce with the skills necessary to accelerate the health system into the future. He frequently teaches and trains at several local and international institutions in epidemiology, data science, and public health. Furthermore, his presentations at international conferences and accolades, like the Wu-Lien Teh Best Public Health Student Award, underscore his impact on global health discussions and contributions to advancing public health capacity.

PANELLISTS



PANELLIST

Mr. Joseph Walker-Cousins

Head of International Development
Cloud Solutions (Habib Medical Group)

Arabic-speaking senior business development executive with 15+ years' experience building trusted partnerships with government, institutional and enterprise leaders across Saudi Arabia and the wider Middle East. Helping international organisations navigate complex stakeholder environments and convert strategic relationships into long-term commercial partnerships, market entry and technology adoption across regulated and strategic sectors including government, infrastructure and security; Joseph Walker-Cousins is the Head of International Development at Cloud Solutions, the technology arm of the Riyadh Stock Exchange listed Habib Medical Group (HMG).



PANELLIST

Mr. Eric Du

Board Director, Vice President
Public Affairs & Communications
Huawei Malaysia

Eric Du is a seasoned public affairs and communications leader whose career spans the full breadth of the ICT industry across several of Huawei's most strategically important markets. From the Middle East, Southeast Asia, Korea to Malaysia, he has led government relations and external affairs at key Huawei operations, developing a nuanced understanding of the distinct regulatory landscapes and stakeholder dynamics of each market. He holds an MBA from the Chinese University of Hong Kong and a bachelor's degree in Arabic Language and Culture, giving him a strong foundation for working across multinational and multicultural environments. He recently took on the role of Board Director & Vice President for Public Affairs & Communications at Huawei Malaysia, where he draws on this cross-regional experience to shape the company's local external strategy.

Since joining Huawei in 2012, Du has built a track record across the company's global footprint. He began in Saudi Arabia, managing key accounts and leading public relations to sharpen his on-the-ground expertise in the Middle Eastern market. He then moved to Huawei's Global HQ to head government affairs, gaining first-hand experience shaping external strategy at the corporate level. In Thailand, he served concurrently as head of public affairs and as Vice President of the Huawei ASEAN Academy, where he focused on cultivating local ICT talent and building industry-academia and partnership networks across the region. From 2022 to 2026, as Senior Executive Vice President for Public Affairs & Communications at Huawei Korea, he oversaw engagement with national media, government, and industry, leading an external strategy tailored to the Korean market.

Du's journey — from the Middle East through Southeast Asia and Korea to Malaysia — reflects the trajectory of a public affairs professional shaped by a wide range of regulatory environments and cultures. His emphasis on ICT talent development and ecosystem collaboration during his time at the ASEAN Academy, in particular, speaks to a broader philosophy of external affairs — one that connects technological capability to the growth of the communities a company operates in. This multi-regional, multicultural background continues to serve as a distinct strength in localising global strategy and building stakeholder trust.



PANELLIST

Ms. Khim Tan

Chief Executive Officer
NeX Academy
Pinnacle Connexion

Khim is a seasoned C-suite leader and culture transformation strategist with more than 30 years of executive experience across banking, insurance, FMCG, professional services, technology, stockbroking and retail credit. She has held senior leadership and Group HR roles in MNCs, local conglomerates, a GLC and public listed entities, impacting businesses across 14 countries in Asia-Pacific. Her work has focused on mergers and acquisitions and divestment people strategies, organisational and cultural transformation, succession and talent management, and HR digital and AI transformation, and she has worked closely with Boards and board committees on people, performance, risk and sustainability agendas, including organisation restructuring, culture change, executive succession, ESG-linked people initiatives and the governance of digitally enabled people practices.



PANELLIST

Ts. Br. Jamil Bakri

Chief Executive Officer
Government-Industry TVET
Coordination Body

Ts. Br. Jamil Bakri is the Chief Executive Officer of the Government-Industry TVET Coordination Body (GITC), leading strategic initiatives to strengthen collaboration between government, industry, and education in developing an industry-ready workforce. A Professional Technologist (Ts.) and Certified Builder (Br.), he is a strong advocate for digital transformation, future skills, and talent development to enhance Malaysia's workforce competitiveness. He will share his insights on Progressive Talent, Digital Skills, and the Future Workplace, highlighting practical strategies to equip individuals and organisations for success in an increasingly digital and technology-driven economy.



PANELLIST

Mr. Nicholas Yong

Senior Vertical Solution Expert
Huawei Malaysia

With over two decades of leadership in the ICT sector, Nicholas Yong is a digital transformation strategist currently serving as the Senior Vertical Solution Expert for Huawei Malaysia's Enterprise Government team. Nicholas specialises in bridging the gap between cutting-edge technical architecture and complex public sector objectives through impactful, data-driven storytelling.

His career is defined by a commitment to helping government agencies unlock innovation, operationalize AI governance and build resilient, cloud-native frameworks. From full-stack Sovereign Cloud infrastructure and Agentic AI to mission-critical public safety systems, Nicholas crafts compelling value propositions that help the public sector future-proof operations and drive sustainable national digital economies.

FIND OUT MORE



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