MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

OPENING REMARKS

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Deputy Minister NRES

IGEM Malaysia-Japan Strategic Dialogue Series

7 OCTOBER 2026

11:30 am – 1:00 pm

KLCC Exhibition Hall 1 | Hospitality Lounge#1 (Mezzanine floor)

Assalamu'alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh, good morning, and a very warm welcome.

Your Excellency,
The State Minister of the Ministry of the Environment, Japan

Mr. Ueda Daisuke,
Chief Representative of JICA Malaysia;

Distinguished speakers and panellists; ladies and gentlemen.

1. It is a pleasure to welcome you to the Malaysia-Japan Strategic Dialogue Series, held in conjunction with IGEM 2026. IGEM 2026 marks the 17th edition of this flagship event. It also marks the second consecutive year in which NRES and the Ministry of the Environment, Japan have jointly organised this strategic dialogue. We sincerely hope that this meaningful collaboration will continue to grow and deliver practical outcomes in the years ahead.

2. Today's programme is timely. Climate action is no longer a choice between protecting the environment and pursuing economic growth. It is increasingly the foundation for a competitive economy: one that uses energy efficiently, attracts quality investment, creates skilled jobs and remains resilient in a changing global market.

3. Malaysia has been advancing its green transition through a whole-of-government approach. Our overarching national policies, such as the National Energy Transition Roadmap and the New Industrial Master Plan 2030, Long-Term Low Emission Development

Strategies and the Thirteenth Malaysia Plan provide a clear policy pathway towards a green economy that is low emission, less polluting and less resource-intensive. NRES is advancing this agenda through implementation of climate-related policies, environmental governance, nature conservation and partnership with government agencies federal, state and local levels, industries, financial institutions, civil societies and communities.

4. Malaysia is also enhancing its national climate framework through the Nationally Determined Contribution 3.0 (NDC 3.0), National Climate Change Policy 2.0 and the upcoming National Climate Change Bill. Through the NDC 3.0, Malaysia aims to peak greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, and no later than 2034, and to reduce emissions by 15 to 30 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2035 from that peak. Crucially, the major share of this target represents an unconditional domestic commitment, a testament to our commitment using our own resources. The remaining ambition is framed, as the Paris Agreement intended, on fair access to international climate finance, technology transfer, and regional cooperation.

5. In parallel, Malaysia is proposing the National Climate Change Bill, known as RUUPIN, to provide a stronger legal foundation for climate action. It aims to strengthen accountability, transparency and coordinated implementation of mitigation and adaptation measures across all sectors. It also aims to provide clearer direction, stronger accountability and greater confidence for business and investors to act.

Ladies and gentlemen,

6. The first dialogue for this morning asks a critical question: How can climate policies become a growth strategy rather than a cost? The answer lies in treating climate policies as an enabler of competitiveness. It encourages cleaner production, resource efficiency, green innovation, new markets and investment that is aligned with global green supply-chain expectations.

7. Meanwhile, the second dialogue takes the discussion further, on how can climate policies be translated into actions, projects and investment? This is where partnership matters most. Policy direction must be matched with bankable projects, credible data, supportive finance, capable institutions and technology deployment on the ground.

8. Building on our shared commitments, Malaysia seeks to expand our strategic partnership with Japan into tangible climate solutions, focusing directly on clean energy transition, energy efficiency, low-carbon industrial growth, sustainable cities, and climate-resilient infrastructure. Japan's experience, technology and financing capabilities, together with Malaysia's strategic position, industrial base and policy ambition, offer meaningful opportunities for joint solutions.

Distinguished Guests,

9. Our focus must now center on bankable, scalable low-carbon projects that deliver measurable economic returns. The climate transition is no longer just an environmental goal; it is a fundamental driver of job security, industrial resilience, and business growth. If we do not act

with urgency to deploy these solutions today, the cost of inaction will fall heavily on our economies tomorrow.

10. Today's conversation must be the starting point, not the destination. Our goal now is to turn our aligned priorities into pipeline projects, cross-border investments, and measurable economic resilience. Let us make sure that what we agree on today delivers tangible results tomorrow.

Thank you.