

High Commission of Pakistan in Kuala Lumpur

DRAFT

Speech to be delivered by Chairman Senate at the Opening
Session – Global Muslim Business Forum 2025 on 8th
December in Kuala Lumpur

**H.E. Tan Sri Majid Khan, Chairman KSI Strategic
Institute,**

**H.E. Mr. Yousef Khalawi, Secretary General Islamic
Chamber of Commerce and Development,**

Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honour to join you today at the opening session of the 2025 Global Muslim Business Forum here in the dynamic city of Kuala Lumpur.

I extend warm greetings to the organizers, delegates, and all participants, and thank our hosts for arranging this important and timely gathering.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Islamic world is entering a new chapter of economic relevance. With rising consumer demand across halal food, pharmaceuticals, modest fashion, travel, media, and the continued expansion of Islamic finance, the global Muslim economy today stands as a vital driver of growth and innovation. These sectors reflect not only commercial dynamism but also the creativity and resilience of our communities.

Today, the Islamic world represented by the 57 member states of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation is home to approximately one quarter of the world's population, or nearly two billion people. Yet despite this demographic weight, OIC economies collectively contribute only around 8 to 9 percent of global GDP in nominal terms, and about 14 percent in purchasing-power-parity terms.

This contrast between population size and economic contribution highlights both a challenge and an opportunity. It underscores the importance of deeper cooperation, higher productivity, investment in value-added sectors, and more robust intra-OIC economic integration. The Islamic world possesses immense potential, and the responsibility lies with all of us to translate our demographic strength into meaningful and sustainable economic influence.

In this landscape, the halal economy represents one of our greatest shared opportunities. Pakistan and Malaysia, as leading members of the OIC, are well-positioned to deepen cooperation in halal food production, pharmaceuticals, certification standards, technology, logistics, and investment facilitation. Together, we can build a more connected, competitive, and trusted halal ecosystem that benefits businesses and consumers across the Muslim world and beyond.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Malaysia's steady economic growth and forward-looking leadership continue to inspire partners across the region. The vision of Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim has reinforced Malaysia's role as a bridge between East and West, and as a convenor of platforms that support innovation, Islamic finance, sustainability, and inclusive development. We commend Malaysia for its achievements and for its consistent commitment to advancing opportunities for its people and the region.

Pakistan and Malaysia enjoy a longstanding and friendly relationship rooted in mutual respect, shared values, and a common outlook on many regional and global issues. In recent years, our bilateral relations have gained excellent momentum. The visit of Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim to Pakistan in October 2024, followed by the visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to Malaysia in October 2025, reflects the strong commitment of both leaderships to deepen cooperation in trade, investment, and strategic partnership.

Our bilateral trade continues to grow, with promising avenues in textiles, agriculture, halal sector, information technology, and Islamic finance. Both countries remain committed to exploring new opportunities to strengthen economic integration and to support initiatives that create jobs, enhance skills, and expand mutually beneficial commerce.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we gather here at this important Forum, I am confident that our discussions will inspire new partnerships, innovative ideas, and concrete outcomes for the global Muslim economy.

Pakistan looks forward to working closely with Malaysia and with all partners represented today to advance shared prosperity, strengthen cooperation, and contribute to the stability and development of the Muslim world.

612 Words (approximately 10 minutes)